

Hope after the quake



Last week's quake in Sichuan Province, an 8.0 on the Richter scale, killed more than 40,000 residents and left 5 million homeless. Help has come from people both across the nation and around the world, and quake news continues to dominate headlines. Beijing Today presents a special nine-page special to record how China and the world have struggled to help the victims in its aftermath.

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CFP and IC Photos

Beichuan finds new home

By Han Manman

The death toll from the quake rose to 51,151 by 10am, Thursday, and 288,431 were confirmed injured, the Information Office of the State Council released. The number of missing currently stands at 29,328.

Premier Wen Jiabao announced Wednesday the central government will allocate 70 billion yuan this year to reconstruct quake-hit regions.

Rebuilding a leveled county

Beichuan, the worst-hit county in the May 12 earthquake, will be rebuilt at a new site in neighboring Anxian county, according to a preliminary plan that awaits government approval, Xinhua reported Wednesday.

The exact location has not been decided, but it is likely to be on the

flat land of what is currently neighboring Anxian County, 20 kilometers away, an official with the Sichuan Provincial government said.

"Safety is the top priority in selecting a new location for reconstruction," Xinhua said quoting Beichuan Party chief Song Ming. "We plan to build a monument and a memorial to commemorate the quake victims at the previous location," Song said.

Expert panel set up for reconstruction

A 30-member expert committee was set up Wednesday to offer scientific advice on the massive work of quake relief and reconstruction.

The committee, working under the leadership of the State Council's earthquake relief headquarters, has

experts from 22 disciplines, from seismology and geology to civil engineering and hydrology.

The founding of the committee is of key importance to offer scientific support to quake relief, settlement of quake victims and reconstruction, the premier said.

The primary task of the committee is to "assist China's earthquake administrations to forecast aftershocks and be on guard against secondary disasters," Wen said. The committee is also responsible for formulating a reconstruction plan and offering precautionary measures for the future.

Officials ordered to slash spending

The State Council on Wednesday ordered government depart-

ments to cut spending by 5 percent this year to free up money for quake reconstruction.

The money will help to finance a 70 billion yuan fund for rebuilding after the May 12 quake.

Wen said the devastating earthquake had caused huge losses in quake-hit regions and said reconstruction would be an arduous task. He ordered government organizations and public institutions at all levels to decrease their spending on meetings and business travel and freeze the approval of any new office buildings for government bodies, Xinhua reported.

He said the May 12 earthquake had added new uncertainty to the outlook for the economy, but the fundamentals remained unchanged.

Ministry will use donations, relief funds 'effectively'

By Zhang Dongya

At the press conference held by the State Council Information Office Tuesday afternoon, the Ministry of Civil Affairs said it would ensure the effective and transparent use of donations and allocated relief funds. It will also provide long-term help for rebuilding homes.

"The ministry will strengthen management and supervision over how donations are allocated and used," Jiang Li, vice minister of Civil Affairs, said. "We will ensure materials are utilized efficiently and will continue to release information. The Ministry of Finance and the Auditing Office will join the supervision at the government level," Jiang said.

"Regulations on donations for disaster relief were issued by the Ministry of Civil Affairs this April, and we have more specific regulations planned for earthquake relief," Pang Chenmin, deputy director in charge of disaster relief with the Ministry of Civil Affairs, said.

According to the regulations, all organizations which accepted donations and the Ministry of Civil Affairs at both state and local levels are forbidden to appropriate donation money for their daily operation costs. Charitable organizations, including the Red Cross Society of China and the China Charity Federation, cannot withdraw donation money as their own funds.

"Expenses of the Ministry of Civil Affairs are charged to the government," Pang explained. "Foundations can take some money for management and daily use according to their own regulations, but they must make this use public."

Officials reiterated that the government will make timely delivery of domestic and international donations to quake-hit zones.

"All the government and non-government organizations dealing with the donations must quickly and transparently deliver donations to quake-hit regions, and all the donations must be reported to the public every day through the media," Pang said.

Pang also called on the public to donate through legal channels publicized by the government and promised to investigate and deal with any attempt to hide, intercept or misappropriate donations.

The National Audit Office said last week it would audit the use of cash and goods for quake disaster regions.

Supplies donated by other countries, individuals and companies would be exempt from import taxes, the State Tax Administration said Wednesday.

Domestic and overseas donations to China's quake-hit areas totaled 16 billion yuan as of Wednesday, a Ministry of Civil Affairs spokesman said.

Injured arrive for treatment



The first group of victims, mostly children, arrived in Beijing Wednesday for treatment.

Xinhua Photo

Construction company builds hope in Zundao

By Vinna Huang

Beijing Chengdong Housing Construction donated to Zundao Town in Mianzhu, Sichuan Province, a school building that is resistant to earthquakes, fire and flood. The school, named Kang-zhen Hope School opened at 10 am this Wednesday for its first classes.

On May 18, the Ministry of Education said it hoped surviving children can promptly return to class. It said that returning to the school routine could significantly aid in rebuilding any psychological damage the children have suffered.

A week after the earthquake, more than 80 schools in the disaster areas of Beichuan resumed classes on May 19. The schools provided tents for the classes, and some others moved to Mianyang to continue their studies.

The tent-based temporary schools are simple and crude, but many students said they were happy to return to some semblance of normalcy.

Miracle rescue after 216 hours

By Jackie Zhang

"I want to live. I must hold on."

Cui Changhui, a survivor who was rescued 216 hours after the earthquake hit, repeated this phrase to herself again and again while she was trapped under a collapsed work shed. Rescuers finally arrived on Wednesday afternoon.

She was conscious by that night, but remained hospitalized for rib and shoulder fractures and malnutrition.

Cui worked at an electric power station. She was at work with 43 coworkers when the earthquake hit. Ensuing mud and rock flow killed 22 of her coworkers immediately after the quake.

She was trapped under a collapsed work shed. When her colleagues dragged her out, her arms and waist were badly injured. In order to protect her colleagues, Cui insisted on staying behind in the collapsed work shed herself and asked the colleagues to run for help.

Left all alone, Cui subsisted on a piece of fruit left behind by one of her colleagues. Then, she found earthworms and weeds to



Cui Changhui needs further treatment. Photo provided by Sohu.com

eat. There was no water, and she had to drink her own urine.

Wednesday afternoon, the rescuers and doctors finally found Cui and other workers. Cui was sent to hospital for immediate surgery. She is conscious as of press time, but requires further treatment.

According to the statistics from the Operations Department of the General Staff Headquarters, the total number of survivors being rescued from building remains was 6,452 by midnight of Tuesday. The statistics from the Ministry of Health by Wednes-

day noon said, there are 59,394 in hospital for treatment.

More miracles

196 hours: Tuesday evening, a 60-year-old woman was rescued after 196 hours. In the eight days when she was stranded between two big rocks on a mountain, two of her dogs kept her company. Now the old lady is in hospital.

180 hours: Wednesday morning, a pregnant woman was rescued from the building remains. She was buried in the remains for 180 hours. On her way to hospital, she gave birth to a girl. Both of them are safe now.

International teams arrive to aid search

By Jackie Zhang

Rescue teams from countries including Japan, Russia and Singapore and regions including Hong Kong and Taiwan, have arrived in quake-hit Sichuan Province to provide help in search and rescue work.

The seven overseas rescue teams of almost 300 rescuers, continue looking for people, both living and dead, buried under building remains.

Tuesday, the rescue teams from Japan, Russia and Taiwan left the province. Japanese and Russian professional medical teams

arrived Tuesday and Wednesday to continue the work and provide medical aid. Besides, 10 medical workers from the Russian rescue team remained in the province. Another Red Cross rescue team arrived Tuesday from Taiwan to continue the search.

The Japanese rescue team arrived first. The team faced landslides and ruined roads on its way to Sichuan's hardest-hit region.

The South Korean rescue team consisted of 50 people. Some were rescuers with more than 30 years experiences, and several have worked on other disasters around the world.

Another 55 rescuers from Singapore and 41 rescuers from Hong Kong joined the effort.

NGOs also sent teams to help relieve people in Sichuan.

A non-governmental medical team from South Korea arrived in Qingchuan County, Sichuan Province, Tuesday. It participated in disinfection and epidemic prevention tasks. The team is part of the salvation league in South Korea, and consists of 21 rescuers and medical staff – all volunteers.

"The Korean team has provided us with a lot of help and made our job a little

easier," Li Zhongping, vice director of Qingchuan Center for Disease Control and Prevention, said.

Signi, another team from the Netherlands, arrived last Sunday. The team consists of three people and four rescue dogs. Its name is taken from a signal for water and is also an NGO. Signi was the first foreign non-governmental team to enter the quake-hit area to provide help. "I hope we can do our best. It is better to find a corpse than to find nothing," Janelte Kial, a team member with six years of rescue experience, said.

First foreign team finds survivor

By Jackie Zhang

The Russian rescue team found and rescued a survivor last Saturday, the day after it arrived in Chengdu. The team returned to Russia on Tuesday, and a professional medical team arrived to continue its work.

The first rescue team of 51 persons arrived in Sichuan last Friday, and the second team arrived the next day. There were 98 rescuers and doctors sent by the Russian emergency rescue bureau. The teams brought professional rescue dogs and equipment. The bureau was established in 1992 and has participated in every disaster relief effort around the world since then.

Last Saturday night, the team searched a building in Dujiangyan City. Surviving residents told them there were two people buried under the remains. When the rescuers searched the first floor, the dogs growled excitedly, and within 40 minutes the team dug out Xu Rongxing, 61, who had been buried for 127 hours. "I was frightened and lived on my urine for the first two days," Xu said. "They gave me another chance at life. I'll never forget them."

"There is no better success than rescuing a survivor," the leader of the rescue team said.

The Russian rescue team lived on a basketball court operated by the Dujiangyan Tourism Administration. The national flag of Russia and an SOS flag were planted in the court. The team brought a motor-generator, 10 days worth of food, cooks and its own communication equipment.

The team members participated in rescue efforts in turn. They were divided into 10 small teams, each with doctors and equipment.

The team found seven corpses in addition to the survivor.



The Japanese rescue team mourning for the dead body they found in Qingchuan.

CPF Photo

Japan team tries its best, finds no survivors

By Li Fenghua

The Japanese rescue team left Chengdu for Japan early Wednesday, and returned to a warm welcome by its government and Chinese nationals who were living and studying in the country.

Team members said they had accomplished more than they initially expected they would, though its work was extremely difficult.

"The earthquake was far more disastrous than we initially imagined. We tried our best to rescue people, but could not find anyone who was still alive," Koizumi Takashi, head of the team, said.

The only two female members of the

team said rescue efforts persisted nearly 24 hours the first day and more than 10 hours each following day.

"We were very thankful for the support of the local people. It was the first time we worked with the Chinese People's Liberation Army. Its work was very impressive."

Qin Gang, spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said the Chinese people are grateful for what the Japanese did during the earthquake's aftermath.

"Japan was the first group of foreign aid personnel to arrive in China following the devastating 8.0-magnitude quake, which jolted a wide range of areas around China last week.

When the rescue team arrived at the disaster place, they faced hard conditions and great pressure," Qin said.

Japan sent 60 rescuers to Sichuan in two waves Friday and Saturday. The teams were sent to assist local disaster relief in the most devastated areas: Qingchuan and Beichuan.

The teams consisted of firefighters, police, coast guards and the Japan International Cooperation Agency, which flew in on Japan Airline on Thursday.

The Japanese government said all forms of assistance, including rescue and medical, are available pending the government's request.



A rescue team from Taiwan was working in Mianzhu last Friday. Photo by Yu Xiangjun

Rescue teams from Taiwan's 9.21 quake head to Sichuan

By Jackie Zhang

Clad in orange uniforms, the rescue team from Taiwan arrived last Saturday to search for people buried in the remains of Sichuan buildings. The 20-man team left Tuesday after discovering 15 people, all dead.

Another rescue team was dispatched by the Taiwan Red Cross. The 37-man team arrived in Chengdu, Sichuan Province, and transferred to Deyang to continue the search and rescue work.

The first rescue team from Taiwan arrived in Chengdu last Friday. The next morning, it started work in Mianzhu, one of the most-damaged regions. Team leader Ou Jinde was the general director of rescue efforts when a magnitude 9.21 quake rocked the island in 1999. "Although the earthquake took place several days ago, there is always hope. We won't give up," Guo Enshu, vice team leader, said when they arrived.

The team was also organized by the

Taiwan Red Cross. Hanwang Town in Mianzhu City was the focus of its search. Most team members were selected from the Taipei International Rescue Team. All are medical and fire fighting elites.

When a big earthquake shook Taiwan in 1999, the local government found itself short of rescue workers and formed the Taipei International Rescue Team in early 2000.

This time, the rescue team brought nearly 3,000 kilograms of advanced equipment used to detect where people may still be alive.

The team, aside from its advanced equipment, also brought Beili, a rescue dog. Rescue dogs are trained to hear people's voices, even from deep underground.

Among the four rescue dogs on Taipei's rescue team, Beili, 4, is the most famous. The dog was trained professionally in the US and participated in rescue efforts in Iran in 2003.



Volunteer armies appear in the rubble

By Huang Daohen

The magnitude 8 earthquake that struck Wenchuan County, Sichuan Province, has killed over 40,000, leaving millions homeless. But an unexpected mobilization – thousands of Chinese streaming into the quake region and joining rescue workers – has come from outside official channels.

Misery, homelessness and devastation aside, the earthquake has given birth to a remarkable phenomenon: a grassroots volunteer army.



Private aid poured into the epicenter after the quake.

The rich get down and dirty

Wearing a uniform of red-heart T-shirts, the volunteers helped unload injured from ambulances. Driving their Audis and Mercedes-Benz cars, they delivered water to the homeless.

A special rescue team consisting of forty members from a private car club in Chengdu, Sichuan's capital, came into the spotlight during the rescue efforts in Shifang, a devastated city near the epicenter.

These people are wealthy, and most of them own companies.

"I haven't done this before," the team leader surnamed Wang said, "but I couldn't just sit there when I saw the disaster coverage on television."

Wang, 46, a former soldier and now manager of a company in Chengdu and operating a hotel and restaurant heard the news on May 12 and realized transportation was a problem for rescue workers. He shared his idea of offering voluntary transportation with his friends at the car club and won favorable support.

He and his friends spent 100,000 yuan to buy water, medicine, bread and dried noodles. Then they packed it all in their SUVs and drove all night to the disaster zone, arriving at 4 am the next day in the devastated city of Beichuan to deliver their goods.

Wang's crew was the first non-government aid that arrived in Beichuan. A couple days later, the team transferred to Shifang city.

Over the past week, Wang and his friends made multiple trips to transport more than 200 injured people out of the devastated cities.

Beijing Today's further inquiry to Wang's rescue team was politely rejected yesterday. "That's no big deal. We definitely have a duty to help our brothers and sisters," Wang said. "There is still much work waiting for us ahead."

Radios to the rescue

Ham radios were deemed a relic with the dawn of the digital era, but when communications were handicapped and roads were closed in the quake, radios became lifelines.

Zhao Peifeng, a Beijing radio enthusiast, was among the volunteer rescuers who relied on radio in Qingchuan, another city devastated by the quake.

Zhao lied to his family about where he was going when he decided to join the volunteer team. He and another 15 local radio enthusiasts who had rescue experience rented four sport utility vehicles ten hours after the quake occurred. The crew arrived in Chengdu after 26 hours of driving.

The first mission of the crew was to enter the Yaodu town in Qingchuan County where 18,000 victims were trapped, and were broadcast timely reports on the victims' situations. Trekking down the narrow mountain roads and through falling rubble, Zhao and his crew finally arrived in the town.

"As a man, I did not cry much. But when I saw the trapped



A board made by locals in Qingchuan saying "Thanks! Volunteers!"
Xinhua Photos

people I could not hide my emotions, and I can't remember now how many times I've cried during my stay," Zhao said.

During their stay, the crew had no chance to bathe or change their clothes.

Zhao returned to Beijing Wednesday evening after spending nine days in the epicenter. When asked the first thing he did after returning, Zhao said he put together a wrap-up report. "It is a lesson for everyone to learn," Zhao said, "We will do better next time."

New trend in private aid

The Mercedes owners and Zhao's crew are among a huge army of Chinese volunteers, numbering in the tens of thousands, who have poured into the earthquake zone providing private aid. Most of the volunteers are independent and self-financed, a sharp contrast to the traditional organized rescue efforts.

As of press day, no official statistics have been released on the private aid groups. In the quake-damaged city of Mianyang, for instance, there are more than



Zhao Peifeng returned to Beijing after completing relief rescue work in Qingchuan.

Photo by Bruce Huang

9,000 volunteers, including hundreds from distant provinces. They formed a "Red Ribbon" movement to help the quake victims.

In Chengdu, a Buddhist temple has become a collection center and has offered space for the relief volunteers. They have formed a command structure called the "NGO Relief Action Group" to help coordinate 30 organizations.

"We realized that this is an unprecedented crisis that we must join together to make some substantial contribution," Mo Xing, 39, a veteran organizer of non-governmental organizations and president of the Yunnan Institute of Development, said.

"Ordinary people now understand how to take action on their own," Mo said.

A turning point

Analysts say this could be a significant turning point for China. "This is going to dissolve some boundaries between the government and the common people. People are becoming more educated and organized, and society is becoming more open," Bao Shuming, a US research coordinator, said.

For many, the whole nation has become richer and more people are now rich enough to give back. The public reaction is simply a natural outpouring of grief and a desire to help.

"We grew up reciting Confucius saying that all men are born kind, but it takes a disaster like this to bring out the innate kindness of everyday human beings," Alan Qiu, 41, an investor in Shanghai, told the *New York Times*.

"People are touched by the scenes of children and also the value of life. We grew up in a society where people tend to believe that Chinese lives are of less value than foreign lives," Qiu said.

Swiss artist's colorful car to aid victims

By He Jianwei

Roger Pfund, a Swiss painter, designer, and architect, applied his creative painting skills to a car from May 16 to 18 at the Beijing Today Art Museum. The automobile will be auctioned off in China with the proceeds going to the earthquake disaster-relief fund.

From May 10 to 31, Pfund presented his solo exhibition at the Beijing Today Art Museum. According to the original plan, Pfund was to paint the exterior of a Fiat-500, which then would be transported back to Switzerland for auction and the collected funds donated to the Red Cross.

The horrific earthquake in Sichuan Province changed the artist's plan. He decided to put the car up for auction in China and donate the funds to the earthquake disaster area.

The car will be exhibited on the second floor exhibition hall of building No 1 at the Beijing Today Art Museum.

Pfund, a recognized industry pioneer, whose paintings sell for between 400,000 and 800,000



Roger Pfund painting for the quake disaster-relief fund.

Photo provided by Beijing Today Art Museum

yuan depending on size and theme has created artistic themes for many famous events, including the 700th anniversary ceremony of the Swiss Confederation and the urban exhibition and commemorative monument for the 50th anniversary of United Nations in Geneva.

The exhibition will offer a unique opportunity to personally interact with Pfund as art visitors admire his distinctive works including designs for the 2008 Beijing Olympics in the Olympic Museum in Lausanne, a series of Maria Callas portraits, the Expo (the Swiss national exhibition)

multimedia production and the design and layout of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Museum.

The exhibition will also showcase his famous currency designs that were awarded first prize in the 1996 EURO design competition held by the European Monetary Institute.

Bookworm lends a hand to Sichuan

By Annie Wei

As one of the most active places in town, The Bookworm is co-ordinating efforts to help the people of Sichuan during this difficult time.

Its Chengdu location has become a focal point in assisting those groups currently providing on the ground support for those in Sichuan affected by the tragedy.

Peter Goff, 39, Irish, one of the owners of The Bookworm China chain spent the last 10 days in Sichuan to help immediately after the quake.

Goff said he was on the phone from Suzhou with people at The Bookworm Chengdu when the phone went dead. He called back a few minutes later and realized a serious earthquake had just occurred.

Within a few hours after the earthquake on May 12, he flew from Suzhou to Chongqing and then traveled to Chengdu by car due the airport being closed.

At the same time, Bookworm locations started collecting articles for the earthquake victims.

When the Chinese Red Cross was setting up operations in affected areas and smaller groups were doing what they could to provide food, water, shelter and medicines, The Bookworm was there assisting these groups, until the larger organizations arrived.

The Bookworms in Beijing, Suzhou and Chengdu gathered much needed emergency materials. All in all, 3.8 tons of relief materials were collected from The Bookworm Beijing, 3.5 tons from Suzhou and 6 tons from Chengdu, as well as 300,000 yuan in cash donations at press time. All materials have been sent to the Chinese Red Cross.

Greenpeace addresses chemical dangers

By Annie Wei

After the earthquake, Greenpeace China sent a group to Sichuan to monitor and assess the environmental damage caused by the disaster.

According to its latest study, Greenpeace found that although government had issued all chemical plants to cease operations in the affected areas, some small plants had started operating illegally.

Yue Yihua, Greenpeace's toxic campaigner, said over the past several days, they had visited a dozen chemical plants in the most affected areas like Dujiangyan, Qingbaijiang and Shifang.

"We noticed that most plants had stopped operations after receiving notice from the State Administration of Work Safety and waited for the re-operation information," Yue said.



Greenpeace members visiting chemical plants in earthquake-affected areas.

Photo provided by Greenpeace

However, they also found that some chemical plants ignored the request and refused to recognize the potential danger.

Yue said that they had reported these incidents to the Ministry of Environmental Protection and its supervision department in southwest China.

Greenpeace said it wanted to coordinate with government to monitor small chemical plants and call on victims to be removed from these dangerous places and moved to safer ground.

The organization will keep following other environmental issues caused by the earthquake.

Disaster unites pets and people

By Annie Wei

To aid in the disaster response effort, the International Center for Veterinary Services (ICVS) has sponsored a team to go to Sichuan to help work with the government agencies to coordinate a disaster plan and relief effort to provide aid for the pets affected by this natural disaster.

Disaster relief efforts for pets is a very new concept in China. To bring attention to the plight of these animals that are also victims of the earthquake, ICVS is appealing to the international community for help in voicing their concern for the affected animals. While funds donated through international charitable organizations such

as the Red Cross Society will be sent to help the human victims of the earthquake, ICVS is also in discussions with the government to establish a fund for donations that will be directed towards helping pets and rescuing dogs. To make a donation towards pet disaster relief and to support the rescue of dogs, please contact ICVS at 8456 1939/1940/1941 or email them at their Web site: ICVSASIA.com.

Frank Fan, from the ICVS, accompanied by six volunteers went to Sichuan and were touched by scenes that demonstrated the preciousness of life for both humans and animals.

The situation was much worse than what they expected initially.

Lions allocates US \$1.5 million for relief

By He Jianwei

As the charitable arm of Lions Clubs International, the largest service club organization in the world, the Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) donated US \$1.5 million in Lions-led relief aid for China last Friday.

After the powerful, massive earthquake that struck Sichuan Province in central China on May 12, Lions Clubs International in Hong Kong and Macau raised US \$600,000 and committed an initial grant of US\$500,000 to address immediate needs and provide medicines, clothing, blankets, water purification and temporary housing.

The organization has already sent 5,000 tents for displaced victims, and more are on the way. Through a vast network of Lions Clubs members in Hong Kong and the Chinese mainland, the Lions foundation is also dispatching relief teams to the affected areas to deliver supplies and assist with hands-on relief efforts.

"As the biggest international volunteer service organization in China, the Lions Clubs International Foundation is working closely with other Lions members in the area to assess and address immediate needs. Through our grassroots network in the affected communities, we are able to get relief supplies to those in the most need very quickly," Jimmy Ross, Lions Clubs International Foundation Chairperson, said.

Similar to Lions' response to other worldwide natural disasters, LCIF expects donations from Lions around the world to surpass US \$400,000 in the first week. These funds will help address immediate needs. Additional funds raised from the Lions organizations in the coming weeks will go towards long-term reconstruction and rehabilitation needs such as housing, schools and eye health care.

The Lions Clubs have a long history of working with the Chinese government to provide humanitarian services. Today, there are 1,655 Lions members in 79 clubs on the Chinese mainland in addition to 1,429 Lions in 62 clubs in Hong Kong and Macau.

For more information about this foundation, go to lionsclubs.org.



A Shandong rescue team member carrying his dog.

Photo by Zhou Qingxian

Expat volunteers not excluded

Since the quake first struck, foreign nationals from all corners of the country have been eager to lend a hand. Those nearest the disaster zone joined volunteer teams, and those thousands of miles away donated blood.

Foreign experts mourn at Tian'anmen

By Li Fenghua

Robert Vincin, an Australian expert on Environmental Protection for the State Administration of Foreign Experts Affairs, came to Tian'anmen Square to mourn the dead on Monday afternoon.

He wore a armband with "Sichuan" written on it, something that made him really stand out in the Square. Many foreigners from countries all over the world came to mourn.

On Monday afternoon, thousands of people gathered in the square to observe three minutes of silence starting at 2:28 pm for the victims of the quake that shook Wenchuan, Sichuan Province, to its foundations.

"We are all human beings. We should support each other when disaster occurs. About one in five people in Australia are Chinese. We have a good relationship with each other and with the Chinese government, which set a good example to the world in this disaster," Vincin said.

"I couldn't stay at my house. So I went to a shop, bought a black armband and painted "Sichuan" on it and came to Tian'anmen Square to mourn together with the people."

Vincin studied Engineering and Business Management, and has spent 35 years researching atmospheric changes in relation to land and water vegetation. He was also an electoral secretary to Prime Minister of Australia Hon John Howard. He addressed the UN conference in 1985 on how to restore vegetation to eroded or arid land. In 1996, he was appointed to the UNCTAD Emission Trading Committee.

He visited China in 2005 to advise how to repair the eroded regions. He was also chairman eminent for the Perpetual Carbon Environmental Reparation Trust and a lecturer in Beijing University of Forestry, as well as chairman of Clean Air Beijing.



Robert Vincin

Photo by Zhang Xinghua

15-hour days couldn't tire out volunteer



Brian Robinson (right) was one of the first expat volunteers to help rescue victims. Xinhua Photo

By Han Manman

A recent video of Premier Wen Jiabao shaking hands with a US volunteer in one of the area most severely damaged by the quake has made its rounds through the local media.

The man, doctor Brian Robinson, was one of the first expat volunteers to come to the rescue of victims of the Sichuan earthquake.

The day after last Monday's earthquake, Robinson, representative of the US-based humanitarian organization Heart to Heart International in Chengdu, gathered a team of 15 other volunteers on his way from Chengdu to Beichuan - the county nearest to the quake's epicenter.

No time to 'feel'

From that Tuesday on, Robinson had no time to rest. "Robinson was so busy - from morning to night - he is more tired than I am," volunteer Wang Lingfang said Tuesday. "I have to rest today. The 15-hour days have worn me out, but Robinson is still going."

When Robinson answered reporters' calls, he had just finished a meeting with the Public Health Bureau and China Red Cross in Chengdu to discuss how to best utilize the latest US donations, including high-quality medical equipment.

"We have to head back to Chengdu already," Robinson said. He said the Chinese government has already taken care of the Beichuan victims and there were no more people living there, "We came back Chengdu to think about the next step and how we can help the local people."

For the rescue days in Beichuan, Robinson and his team mainly worked in assisting the wounded and distributing medicine, water and saline solution to the front lines.

In Beichuan, they saw rescuers search furiously for survivors at the town's middle school, where at least 1,000 students and teachers were thought buried.

Robinson said of his days of work that "as of now, I'm only seeing - not feeling."

"Feeling always takes a while to catch up. When the disaster ends, I will have time to think about how it made me feel. But now, I only wish I could do more to help the victims," Robinson said.

"I saw a lot during the days there. I saw how the government, the hospital, the army and the drivers came together. We were the same. They also had no time to feel, and just wanted to help more people."

Meeting with the premier

A meeting with Chinese premier Wen Jiabao was an unexpected surprise for Robinson.

Last Wednesday, Robinson and his team met with Premier Wen Jiabao on the road, who had just finished the overseeing rescue work and was preparing to leave Beichuan. They received Wen's gratitude for helping to save lives.

"That was a fantastic experience and I really enjoyed the meeting with Premier Wen Jiabao. He is really a sincere man. I could feel he was really concerned for his people," Robinson said.

The quake strikes suddenly

When the earthquake happened, Robinson was at his home in Chengdu. "My phone was ringing while I felt the earthquake, but I was afraid to pick it up," Robinson said. His home is on the 7th floor, and Robinson thought he had no time to get out, so he chose to stay at home.

"I thought I might die. The earthquake was so strong. But I lived," Robinson said.

"The next day morning, I went to the local Red Cross center to ask if I could come to the disaster area to help with the rescue and they agreed," Robinson said. Together with 15 other volunteers, he set out on his rescue journey.

Robinson has lived in Chengdu for nine years. He is a representative of Kansas City-based Heart to Heart International, an organization that sends doctors to developing countries.

Estonian diplomats bleed for victims

By Han Manman

The news of the urgent need for blood in disaster zones not only touched the hearts of the Chinese people, but also of many expats like Estonian Ambassador to China Andres Unga.

Immediately after he heard about urgent need for blood, Andres Unga and two diplomats in his embassy decided to donate their blood. Last Wednesday morning, the trio arrived at the Beijing Red Cross Blood Center.

The ambassador said that what they can do for the quake victims is very limited, but that donating blood was the most direct way for them to help.

"We wanted to do something after the quake. We wanted to help. We saw that they needed blood. We have blood; this is how we can help," Merike Grunthal, one of the diplomats, said.

The 42-year old ambassador attracted lots of attention in the donation center not only for his formal dress, but also for his stature.

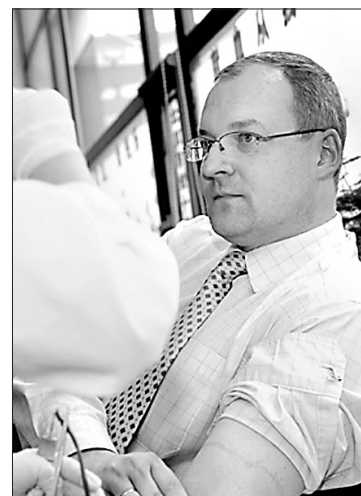
His donation process did not go smoothly, and Red Cross doctors found his blood pressure was high. He was told to rest and get checked again, but that if his blood pressure was still high that he should consider not donating. Unga was disappointed, but said, "I have donated blood many times without any problems, I want to try again."

The ambassador is an "experienced" donor. In Estonia, he donated blood more than 20 times. But this was his first time to donate blood in a foreign country and first time to donate for disaster victims, something he said made the experience more meaningful.

After ten minutes of rest, Unga's blood pressure was still a little high but better than his first test. When the doctor asked him to decide whether or not to donate, he said, "Of course I will donate."

Donors can select between two amounts to donate: 200 or 400 milliliters, Unga chose the second without any hesitation.

Unga said the government responded very quickly to the disaster and it is very competent at rescue operations. He said he believed the people will overcome this disaster and rebuild their homes.



Estonian ambassador to China Andres Unga donating blood for Sichuan quake victims. Xinhua Photo

A time of national mourning



Young girl offers a paper crane representing hope for the future.

Flags are to be kept at half-mast and all public amusements will be suspended for three days from Monday as China begins an official mourning period for victims of the May 12 earthquake.

The State Council, the Cabinet, ordered last Sunday a nationwide respect for the dead. The Olympic torch relay will also be suspended from Monday to Wednesday.

The public are asked to stand in silence for three minutes from 2:28 pm Monday, while automobiles, trains, and ships will sound their air sirens.



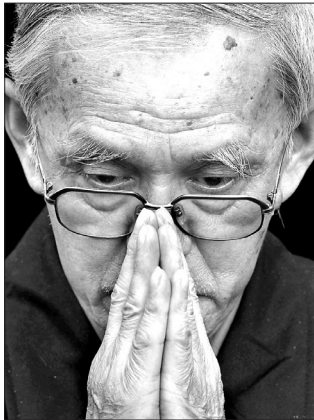
Woman yells, "Courage!"



Children bow their heads in respect.



Wearing white flowers signifies respect.



Praying for the quake victims.



The PLA mourning the dead in the quake.



Thousands of mourners fill Tiananmen Square and deliver words of courage and hope.

Xinhua Photos

Wave of unity and patriotism sweeps China

(CNN) – One of the most destructive moments in Chinese history is bringing together – at least temporarily – this vast nation of more than a billion people, made up of disparate ethnic groups stretching across five time zones.

Thousands chanted “China, keep moving” during a rally in Chengdu’s Tianfu Square.

When millions of Chinese paused for three minutes of silence Monday, they personified the surge in patriotism and charity that has swept this country since a massive 7.9 magnitude earthquake leveled large sections of Sichuan Province.

Moments after the observance ended, chants of “Go, China, Go!” broke out in Tiananmen Square. “As Chinese we must be united,” a student said. “We Chinese can do it!”

Some of Monday’s demonstrators waved Chinese flags while others hoisted banners with slogans like “Rebuild Sichuan!”

Horrific scenes of death and devastation – covered heavily by the local media – have triggered a surge of patriotism and charity.

“When one is in trouble, help comes from all directions,” a Chinese saying goes.

In Beijing, Chinese officials, entertainers, athletes and artists attended a marathon concert, giving donations and calling on the public to give more.

As of Sunday, Chinese nationals had donated more than 4.9 billion yuan (\$700 million) in cash and goods for earthquake relief, the Ministry of Civil Affairs said.

Live on Chinese TV, local businesses pledged to give money and build free housing for victims – an unusual display of civic charity. As of last Saturday, Chinese enterprises had donated more than 3.5 billion yuan (\$501 million) in cash and relief goods.

“Traditionally, Chinese people don’t share much with strangers. They share a great deal among friends and family, but not with strangers,” China analyst Zhang Daxing said.

At The Bookworm, a Beijing bookstore, residents drop off relief goods that are promptly shipped to disaster areas.

“My guess would be about 350



The devastating quake in Sichuan brought together the nation.

Xinhua Photo

boxes, which include kid’s clothes, adult clothes, a lot of sleeping bags, tents, dried food, shoes, that type of stuff,” store owner Alex Pearson said.

Students in the Chinese capital have even taken to the street to collect donations.

“Although we cannot go to Sichuan to save them, we can still

help them with donated money,” one student said.

Analysts say this unprecedented display of charity is partly in response to the quick action already taken by Chinese officials to the emergency.

The Chinese media have repeatedly shown Premier Wen Jiabao comforting survivors.

Many believe this has inspired Chinese residents to do what they can to help.

“The earthquake changed China’s international image from an authoritarian government to a victim of natural disaster and human tragedy,” Wenfang Tang, a professor of political science at the University of Pittsburgh, said.

Hu and Wen deserve Nobel Peace Prize

Netizens around the world have been deeply moved by the Chinese top leadership in the quake-fighting battles, saying President Hu Jintao and Premier Wen Jiabao “both deserve the Nobel Peace Prize.”

In the past 10 sad, yet encouraging days, netizens have created Web sites, published posts or written blogs to join the cause. They have extolled the central government’s quick response, good coordination and, most of all, its

“human-life-above-all” policy.

“From the top leadership where president Hu Jintao, despite being in the middle of an aftershock, encourages the rescuers to continue to try to save lives, to premier Wen Jiabao, who slipped and fell and refused medical treatment, and from the very beginning directed the rescue effort from the ground,” a US blogger wrote.

The blogger, named Jim Doyle, wrote in one post, “Like most Americans I feel great

sorrow for the families who have lost loved ones in the Sichuan earthquake. The deaths of so many children are tragic. But China is so lucky to have leaders like Hu Jintao and Wen Jiabao. For the work they have done all around the world they both deserve the Nobel Peace Prize.”

“I just watched a segment on CNN about the China earthquake. I was moved by the mobilization of the PLA (People’s Liberation Army) and (Premier) Wen. No

matter what our differences are politically, the world sends its love to the Chinese people and our prayers,” a Hong Kong netizen “loving everyone” said.

“The Premier’s true sense of dedication is not only commendable but should be recorded in the annals of history,” a netizen, named as Ho Sai Yuen from Canada, said.

“The way and speed with which the Chinese leadership has responded to the catastrophe in

rapid mobilization of men and material is world class,” another netizen called mengzhi, from Australia, said.

Mengzhi continued, “The unified dedication and unstinting mutual help between the survivors, the rescue workers and the army is a lesson in unity and coordination. The Chinese people are impressed, and so is the world at large. Well done, China. We salute you and will continue to pray for you.” (Agencies)

7

Debate



Peking Opera goes back to school

Rewards for relinquishing seats



Two kidney transplants rejected by regulations



Film shoot paralyzes city

Transformer substation breeds controversy

Eastern and western viewpoints meet here



洋腔论见

文化差异的碰撞与融合

7

Debate

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Orphans not ready for adoption

By Annie Wei

The Sichuan civil affairs department announced Wednesday that it has not authorized any organization or individual to register the adoption of children who lost their parents during the earthquake.

Since the earthquake happened, many cities in China have opened registration hotlines for citizens who want to adopt orphans from the earthquake. In Beijing, hotline 96156 for Sichuan earthquake orphans started last Friday. At least 2,000 citizens called in during the first two days.

Ji Gan, director from the China Center of Adoption Affairs said that right now many children may have just lost contact with their parents; the whole adoption procedure can only start after these children are confirmed as orphans.

The top priority now is to save the children and help them recover. Those who lost contact with their parents are being taken care of by local government at present, and every effort is being made to locate their parents first, Ji said.

"We hope it can speed up," Ji said. The center is working on more practical solutions. He said currently there are many people who want to adopt children who lost their parents during the earthquake. They need to make assessments on each of them and try to locate the best family for each child.

According to China's adoption law, people who are interested in adopting orphans need to register with the local government. So far, Sichuan's civil affairs department has opened two hotlines only for adoption consulting. The hotlines are 028-8442 3064 and 028-8442 3065. These lines are very busy right now making it difficult to connect.

Meanwhile, according to the orphan adoption conference held in Beijing Wednesday, there were only over 70 confirmed orphans from the earthquake but 3,500 Beijing residents had registered for adoption.



A woman sleeps close to her child. The two are survivors of the earthquake.

IC Photo

China's NGOs in action

By Zhang Dongya

After the disastrous Sichuan earthquake last week, people from all over the country established numerous volunteer rescue teams to provide help for the quake victims.

1kg.org

As a NGO for Chinese rural education, 1kg.org provisionally changed its goal to provide timely information for volunteers at the quake-stricken areas and promised to provide long-term care and support for the construction of schools in the disaster areas.

They collected basic information from more than 2,000 schools in hardest-hit disaster areas in Sichuan Province. The organization also gathered up-to-date rescue info on the schools, including which schools were lacking tents and what kinds of medicine they needed most.

In addition, they have their own rescue teams for the disaster areas. People who want to provide help can learn the current situations of schools and donate through the organization. Interested people can visit the Web site at dizhen.1kg.org to get further details.

Heifer China

Founded in 1984, Heifer China's purpose is to help rural communities alleviate hunger, poverty and environmental degradation to achieve a sustainable livelihood with a persistent effort through the Heifer International value-based holistic development approach.

After the earthquake, the staff started seeking opportunities to participate in the disaster relief work and joint efforts in Disaster Relief - NGO in Action. Staff reps of Heifer China went to several severely-damaged areas in Dujiangyan and delivered clothes, quilts, drinking water and food.

Heifer China has provided many opportunities for volunteers. Interested people can



Volunteers nationwide gather at the main NGO office in Sichuan before heading to affected areas.

Photo by Zou Zhonghui

visit its Web site at hpichina.org to download an application form.

Heifer China has established six branches all over the country. For the Beijing office, you can call 8843 8736 for details.

Cishan.org

Cishan.org was founded by netizens on Sunday as a Web site to aid and rescue Sichuan earthquake victims.

As many as 20 special lines at 400-818-4818 were also opened to provide all-round services of information for victims and volunteers in disaster areas.

The Web site is divided into several columns, including volunteers, supplies and orphan adoption. The volunteer column tells people what they can do to help victims and the orphan-adoption column provides information on orphans left in areas to be adopted and the ways and procedures for adoption. It also set up columns to share information on searching for families and expressing good wishes and blessings for quake victims.

Since it is a net-based organization,

Cishan.org does not accept donations of money or initiate donations. What they aim to do is to share information so as to help disaster relief.

Visit their Web site at cishan.org or dial 400-818-4818 to join them.

Tuofeng

Tuofeng, based in Shanghai, was established on May 15th, the third day after the earthquake. It adopted the blog way to share information and collect donations. Named after the well-known "Tuofeng Course" in war time, Tuofeng aims to deliver goods to the quake-hit areas successfully and efficiently.

Cooperating with Jet Li's One Found, all the donations Tuofeng receive will be delivered by One Found to the Red Cross Society of China. And they only accept goods in batches by enterprises or individuals' united donations.

Interested enterprises can visit the Web site at tuofeng.blogbus.com or dial 021-5840 2670, 5876 3376 to make contact.

How to donate in Beijing

By Annie Wei

Since the earthquake, many organizations have called for donations nationwide. *Beijing Today* has selected some big and reliable charity organizations.

The Red Cross Society of China

For Chinese yuan accounts, the address is Dongsu Office, Beijing Branch of the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, the account number is 0200001009014413252; for foreign currency accounts, the address is Jiuxianqiao Branch of CITIC Bank and the account number is 7112111482600000209.

The RCSC also opened a hotline at 6513 9999 and 6402 7620 for consultation during daytime hours.

Ministry of Civil Affairs

For Chinese yuan accounts, the address is 8, Meisuguan Houjie, Dongcheng District, Construction Bank of China, the account number is 11001007400058224610; for foreign currency accounts, the address is 1, Fuxingmen Nei Dajie, Xicheng District, Bank of China, and the account number is 00100252328091014.

The China Charity Federation

For Chinese yuan accounts, the address is Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, Xisi Branch, Xicheng District, the account number is 0200002809014450409; for foreign currency accounts, the address is 1, Fuxingmen Nei Dajie, Xicheng District, Bank of China, and the account number is 00100914908091014.

For materials 24 hour-donation

Room 101, Zhongke Dasha, Nan 22, Zhongguancun Dajie, Haidian district
They will send two flights with relief material every day to Sichuan
Tel: 8267 8866 - 201

Inflation still main economic worry

The earthquake that devastated Sichuan last week has created new economic uncertainties, but inflation remains the country's most pressing economic problem, Premier Wen Jiabao said Wednesday.

In remarks to a meeting of the State Council, Wen ordered all central government departments to cut this year's budgeted spending by 5 percent to help fund 70 billion yuan (US \$10 billion) in quake relief and reconstruction.

His comments showed that

China, in official declarations, was not wavering from its pledge to run a tight monetary policy and a prudent fiscal policy this year to tackle inflation.

"The key problem at present is the upward pressure on prices, in addition to tight supply of coal, power and oil in some regions, as well as relatively large pressure on fiscal spending," Wen said.

Inflation rose to an annual rate of 8.5 percent in April. Apart from February's rate of 8.7 percent, inflation was last higher 12

years ago.

"The earthquake in Wenchuan has had a significant impact on the disaster-hit zones and created new uncertainties for the overall economy, but it will not change the economic growth fundamentals," he said.

The reduction in budgeted spending to make room for the rebuilding funds suggests Wen is sticking to his goal of cutting the government's budget deficit this year.

China projected in March that the central government

would run a deficit of 180 billion yuan (0.6 percent of GDP), 65 billion yuan less than the deficit in 2007.

To make up for the unexpected outlay on disaster relief, Wen stressed that officials would have to tighten their belts.

"Purchases of new vehicles should be strictly controlled and approval for new government buildings will be put on hold," he said.

Spending on dinners should also be cut, he said.

(Agencies)

China eyes closer co-op with Airbus

(Xinhua) – Vice Premier Zhang Dejiang on Wednesday called for closer cooperation between European aviation group Airbus and Chinese companies.

While meeting with Tom Enders, president and CEO of Airbus, Zhang said China's civil aviation market develops rapidly and enjoys a broad potential, and China is ready to expand cooperation with Airbus in purchase, industrial subcontract, research and exploration.

He also briefed Enders about China's quake relief work, and expressed appreciation on behalf of the Chinese government for Airbus' donation of five million yuan for the relief work.

Enders briefed Zhang about Airbus' plans and arrangements for future cooperation with China.

Tightened rule on trading suspensions

The Shanghai Stock Exchange on Wednesday required listed firms to limit the share-trading suspension period and hire qualified financial consultants to boost oversight of corporate mergers and acquisitions.

Shanghai-listed companies will be prohibited from halting trading in their stocks for more than 30 days due to pending mergers and acquisitions, according to a statement on the bourse's Web site.

Public firms that halt trading for more than five days must make disclosures over issues including talk proceedings, regulatory approval and pricing at least once a week, the statement said.

Companies are urged to prevent insider information from being leaked in merger and acquisition deals, and they are required to introduce independent financial consulting agencies in their proposed transaction, the bourse said.

"The measures are set to boost transparency in M&A activities," Lu Chengde, a Guosen Securities Co trader, said. "It can help protect the interests of minority investors and weed out potential insider trading."

The China Securities Regulatory Commission said yesterday it would simplify the procedures to approve merger and acquisition deals and urged public companies to make timely disclosures.

(Agencies)

High-Tech focus for science week



The 11th China Beijing International High-tech Expo started in Beijing on May 20 and will continue through Sunday. Themed "Hi-tech Olympics and technological innovation," the Expo highlights the great effort and accomplishments made by the government and society to realize a "Green Olympics, Hi-tech Olympics and People's Olympics." Foreign enterprises including Samsung Electronics, LG Electronics and Panasonic Electric Industrial exhibited a full range of products, which are newly-developed and being presented in China first.

CFP Photo

China Natural Gas ready for Nasdaq

By Huang Daohen

China Natural Gas is speeding up its expansion plans and looking to a Nasdaq listing as soaring crude oil prices make cleaner energies more attractive, Chief Financial Officer Guo Lihong said on Monday.

The provider of compressed natural gas (CNG) and liquefied natural gas (LNG) believes China's efforts to protect its environment and reduce its reliance on coal augurs well for its growth prospects, she told a visiting group of US investors.

"We aim to become China's No.1 in terms of CNG filling stations within the next two or three years," Guo said.

She said the company was looking to borrow about US \$60 million and raise US \$70 million in new equity to help fund a three-stage expansion plan that has a final production goal of 1.5 million cubic metres of LNG per day.

The money would be used to build more filling stations to meet rising domestic demand for CNG and LPG.

Grand Millennium Beijing opens in CBD

By Li Jing

As the newest premier brand of Millennium and Cophorne Hotels, Grand Millennium officially opened its flagship hotel in the city Tuesday.

The Beijing Olympics is part of the reason for the opening of the Grand Millennium Beijing.

"This is a city with a unique culture and heritage. Its unprecedented commercial growth will attract more and more business travelers," Kurt Wehinger, general manager of Grand Millennium Beijing, said.

The hotel offers some of the largest rooms of the capital's 5-star hotels: 45 square meters. It is the only hotel in Beijing that have "extended bathrooms" featuring floor to ceiling glass panels.

China takes measures to reduce iron ore stockpiles at ports

By Huang Daohen

The government will take measures to reduce iron ore stockpiles at ports to lower domestic prices of the raw material, the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) said in a statement.

As of May 15, imported iron ore stockpiled at Chinese ports stood at a record 79.22 million tons, and is expected to increase further, NDRC said.

The commission, the country's top planning body, held a meeting

recently to discuss how to lower iron ore port stocks. There has been congestion at ports in northern China, including Qingdao, Rizhao, Tianjin and Lianyungang.

"The iron ore inventory build-up at ports is mainly due to expectations of further rise in prices," Liu Baoyao, a steel analyst with the Guangfa Securities, was quoted as saying by XFN-asia.

Lowering iron ore port stocks may help reduce domestic prices for iron ore and strengthen the

country's bargaining position in talks over 2008 term prices with Australian miners, Liu said.

Though Brazilian miner Vale, the world's top iron ore producer, has already agreed on a 2008 price hike of 65-72 percent, talks with Australian miners BHP Billiton and Rio Tinto are suspended in a deadlock.

The Australian miners have demanded freight premiums to make up for the difference in transport costs, which at present stand at as much as US \$60 per

ton, Xinhua reported.

Severe port congestion in China, due to the large port iron ore stocks, has also helped push up freight rates for dry, bulk cargoes to new records. The benchmark Baltic Dry Index hit a fresh high of 11,793 overnight.

The China Iron and Steel Industry Association has also urged steel firms to control iron ore imports and warned that steel mills who hoard iron ore may have their import licenses suspended or revoked.

Aussie artist conserves wildlife through his art

By He Jianwei

"I just show the audience beauty which can move them to start to preserve wild animals," Steve Morvell, an Australian artist, who gives his first solo exhibition "Art of the Wild" on May 23 at the Beijing Central Art Gallery & Cultural Venue, said.

Morvell is an environmental artist, dedicated to raising awareness of the beauty and fragility of wild animals and the habitats in which they co-exist with humans.

He shows clearly that art is a powerful tool when used for conservation and understanding of mankind's relationship to the natural world. Steve spends long hours observing animals in their natural habitat to be able to capture the spirit of their surroundings.

He carefully selects the dynamic medium for each idea resulting in his reputation as an innovator in the field of wildlife art with his pastel and charcoal paintings, pencil drawings, brushed carbon ink, pen, watercolor, acrylic and even enamels and bronze works on a large outdoor scale.

His close connection with wild life began in his childhood. When he was a kid, he drew poultry. He and his uncle usually went to the bush to watch birds. "My uncle taught me to love birds," he said.

Morvell has always had a deep commitment to conservation and raising awareness of environmental issues. He went to Africa and Asia to observe the wild animals. He takes note and pictures, when he approaches them.

He traveled through the Wolong Nature Reserve, Sichuan Province, in 2006 for three weeks. He observed the life of pandas living on the reserve and painted pictures of them. The works exhibited will be auctioned and the funds will go to the Sichuan's earthquake victims.

"As a wildlife artist and former park ranger with formal training in environmental management, I am acutely aware of the sometimes imperceptibly small interactions and connections which come together to form the fabric of the environment as a whole," he said.

The nature of existence in any form is that of constant change, evolving towards an unseen and unknowable state.

"But we do know positively that nothing in nature ever repeats itself mechanically. What we see here and now will be different in an hour's time and more so in the future. Interfere with that ongoing natural process and we suffer the curse of the time lords who blindly alter the future by affecting the past," he said.



Australian artist, Steve Morvell bonds with one of his subjects.

Photo provided by Beijing Central Art Gallery & Cultural Venue

Denmark energizes economic concepts

By Jiang Yangyang

"Denmark is perhaps the most striking example of how it is possible to have strong economic growth without having a growth in energy consumption," Hans Jorgen Koch, deputy state secretary at Denmark's Ministry of Transport and Energy, said at Wednesday's International Forum on Innovation and High-Tech Enterprise Brand Building.

According to Koch, the past 25 years has seen Denmark's GDP grow by 80 percent, while the country's energy consumption remained almost static, even declining at certain points in time. "Denmark has enjoyed strong economic growth for more than two decades. According to our estimates this trend is set to continue until at least 2020, and we will make efforts to keep energy consumption at the same level as it is now," Koch said.

One important reason Denmark has been able to decouple economic growth from the growth in energy consumption is the widespread use of combined heat and power production. According to Koch, almost 80 percent of heating and about 60 percent of power is produced by combined heat and power production. By using this technology 90 percent of the fuel content can be utilized. "The figure in the US and

China is 30 - 35 percent. So, it means that you save something like 55 to 60 percent of the fuel content by using combined heat and power," Koch said.

Other reasons for Denmark's relatively low energy consumption include higher energy standards for buildings, labeling schemes for electric appliances, public campaigns for energy saving in households, and taxes on energy consumption. "It is important to note that people are not too fond of tax, especially taxes on personal income. However, the tax on energy consumption seems much more acceptable because the public can see the good reason behind it," Koch observed.

According to Koch, renewable energy has also played an important role in Danish energy consumption, despite the fact that Denmark has no hydropower resources. Renewable energy accounted for only two percent of Denmark's total energy consumption in 1980, but the figure is 15 percent now. It is expected to rise to 30 percent in 2010. Wind power only provides 17 percent of the country's renewable energy. The rest of the country's renewable power comes from different sorts of waste.

"Denmark has succeeded and achieved some good results, but the most important thing is how



Jorgen Koch

Photo provided by Sina.com

we can share the experience with other countries such as China," Koch said.

According to him, Denmark has signed a number of bilateral cooperation agreements with countries including Brazil, India, Poland, Mexico said Ukraine, who are interested in Denmark's energy saving expertise. He also pointed out that Denmark is now negotiating with Russia and Hungary on the same issue. Koch says he is looking forward to signing the same cooperation agreement with China.

Dutch dance troupe comes to town

By Gan Tian

Nederlands Dans Theatre II (NDT II) will make its China premiere tonight at the Beijing PLA Theater. As one of the leading dance companies in the world, the troupe will show Beijing citizens three performances entitled Sleepless, Dream Play and Minus 16.

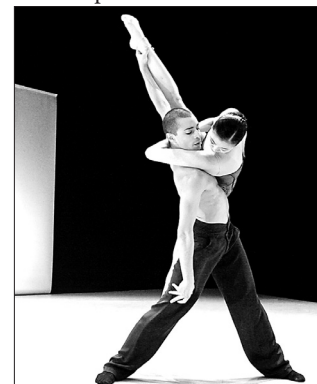
Arriving on Tuesday afternoon, the 16 dancers ages 20 to 24 years old had little time to explore the city. Gerald Tibbs, artistic leader of NDT II, mentioned the trip here was very special firstly because Beijing is going to hold the next Olympics, and secondly, because of the terrible earthquake that just happened on the day before the troupe left for its Asia tour last Tuesday. Knowing that they would go to China they paid a lot of attention to the trip. After the troupe heard that Wu Pro-

motion, the organizing company, would donate all proceeds from ticket sales to the victims, they thought that was a good way to show their support for China. "We are all very sad about this natural disaster and the grief it has imposed on the Chinese people," Tibbs said, but said gave them the opportunity to make a contribution with their performance.

On NDT's first visit to China, their performances were all different from each other. "What the troupe does could be called 'contemporary ballet' as the dancers received classical training," Tibbs said, "It is also our aim to explore the works of younger choreographers with new ideas."

The artistic leader mentioned that contemporary dance is a complicated art form that combines both music and movement. He took Sleepless as an example of difficulties they met when doing rehearsals. "The music was being created simultaneously with the rehearsal periods, which was very stimulating," he said. However, to solve this problem, they erected a similar decor in the studio during rehearsals to make the process gel better.

With NDT's normal schedule, the troupe holds four world premieres each year. The Holland season lasts from August to the end of March or early April and after that they go on tour. The next year is NDT's 50th anniversary, and to celebrate, they will revive some historical and older pieces.



NDT II in action on stage.

Photo provided by NDT II



Several unseen problems happened during the two-month rehearsal Photo by Zhang Rui

Lin Zhaohua is always tagged with labels like experimental, avant-garde and alternative when it comes to describing him or his dramas. As a well-known theater director, Lin is called the "Big Director" in the Chinese drama field, not for his 72 years of age, but, for being one of the most significant figures in Chinese drama history.

Lin's newly-produced drama, *The Blind*, which held its finale last week, featured 12 actual blind, non-professional actors. Similarly, *The Blind* by director Jack McNamara, which featured an entirely blind cast, completed its run in March at The Arcola in London. It does not make sense to argue who was the very first to adopt a blind cast.

The Blind, written by Belgian playwright Maurice Maeterlinck in 1890, was considered the embodiment of his drama theories of "static theatre" and "inner drama." Lin Zhaohua took this masterpiece of human tragedy much more desperately than Samuel Beckett's *Waiting for Godot*, which he adapted to *Three Sisters* in 1998.

"Maeterlinck's plays are unusual and outstanding. If I have a theater, I definitely will stage *Les Aveugles (The Blind)*," Russian dramatist Anton Chekhov said.

Unforeseen blind cast

The Blind has been staged in many countries throughout

drama history. For Lin, it was a longstanding idea to stage the play, but to adopt blind actors was totally accidental.

Once Lin saw a report about sightless people at a movie lecture held by an education organization, the curiosity of the sightless world inspired him. "Blind people live in their own imaginary space and have special feelings towards the outside world. It becomes very challenging to represent their feelings on stage as opposed to using sighted actors," Lin said.

Some failed attempts with professional actors afterwards also proved that it was wiser and the best choice to use blind actors. "Compared with professionals, I found the blind actors had a born nature of sensitivity towards obstacles and they hesitated subconsciously for two seconds when they felt obstacles. And that, the professionals could not perform," Zhao Lixin, the assistant director said.

Moreover, the sense of desperation in the drama was mostly experienced by the actual blind people who can thus convey it vividly to the audience.

Unseen rehearsal problems

However, it is very different and difficult to direct blind actors. "All my previous directing experiences failed to work with these special actors, since they cannot see the script or mimic my performance," Lin Zhaohua said.

During rehearsals, Lin was always found lying in his chair with his eyes closed – he was not sleeping, but meditating the state of sightless. "I tried my best to feel their blindness and hoped to explore a way to communicate with them efficiently," Lin said.

The twelve actors, the oldest 65 and the youngest 17, are masseurs, students and retired workers. They were required to have a good voice and a solid understanding of drama. At the very beginning, Lin chose two actors for one role just in case. Li Luyao, the youngest at 17 and in the leading role, was originally the stand-in. "Once, when an actress was absent, I was asked to play the role and became the permanent actress," Li said.

"We changed actors twice during the two-month rehearsal, since some of them failed to express themselves on stage," Zheng Xiaojie, director of the Beijing Hongdandan Education and Culture Exchange Center, the co-organizer of the drama, said.

"Since we are professionals, we have been remembering the scripts and it took half a month to learn the lines."



Shang Genshui (front), 65, the oldest actor in the drama

Photo by Li Yan



Much of the drama was staged in semi-darkness

Photo by Li Yan



Twelve blind, non-professional actors

stones sight to The Blind

By Zhang Dongya

"Big Director" Lin Zhaohua produced *The Blind*, a new drama featuring 12 blind, non-professional actors. The poster proclaims it "an important event in drama history."

The hardest thing for blind actors was the positioning. As many as four tons of stones – cobblestones which were selected and washed carefully – were placed on the stage to form the "island" scene and also help the actors find their marks. Also, since they could not see the instructors' facial expression or the movements, they had to be asked to touch their faces or feel their movements.

**are not profes-
ad a hard time
g the lines,we
d with Braille
took us nearly
to memorize**

so the instructors had to invest a lot of time teaching them how to perform.

However, there was one thing that satisfied the directors immensely. When the blind actors were in the heat of play, they would devote themselves to it deeply and for a long time.

Small theater vision

As the very first man to initiate the small-theater modern drama in China, Lin Zhaohua staged the first small-theater drama *Juedui Xinhao*, *Absolute Signal*, in 1982. *The Blind* was considered the return of the small-theater drama after a decade since *Qiren*, *Chess People*, was staged in 1995.

To stage the drama at CHE theater of the Chaoyang Culture Center, Lin changed the theater into a smaller venue to adapt to the blind performers. He abandoned the original stage and made a new one in the audience area by removing half of the seats. It is not only an actual small theater with a 200-seat capacity, but also a stage shared with the audience. *The Blind*, featuring static and inner drama, "is adapted to small theater."

In the process of Lin's directing, he continuously adopted the "indulgent way", that is to liberate all the actors on stage, to believe and respect their feelings. Lin first invited dance instructors to teach them to dance so as to relax their bodies. When the actors began to be in the state of drama, he arranged their roles and tried to push their potential to the maximum.

All the elements, including the static scene, simple costumes and props and the natural style of direct ways, make *The Blind* experimental drama.

New eyes on an old drama

Maeterlinck wrote *The Blind* at the turn of the 20th century with the play expressing an enormous sense of anxiety.

The twelve blind people who find themselves stranded on an island are waiting for a priest who Maeterlinck has scripted as lying dead on stage – dead from the very beginning. Even more than in Beckett's *Godot*, the arrival of the awaited figure is a predetermined endgame. However, the blind, being blind, cannot "see" that their leader is a corpse – thus their predicament.

Much of the drama was staged in semi-darkness with the actors speaking in a staccato and monotone chant, broken by long pauses and repetition. Maeterlinck, who was not interested in a theater of action, where plot and event are key elements, said "it is not in the actions but in the words that are found the beauty and greatness of tragedies."

To late 19th-century audiences, the parable would not be hard to interpret: had God really died, as Nietzsche had proclaimed, leaving humans to fend for themselves? Right now, bringing this play into the 21st century, to some extent, shows we are all "blind" when facing the unknown world.

Moreover, as a human tragedy full of fear, despair and hopelessness when facing death, *The Blind* implies that the relationship among people in modern society shows that people fail to communicate with each other fully – also our predicament.



Li Luyao, in the leading role, was originally a stand-in Photo by Li Yan

Photo by Zhang Rui

Four tons of cobblestones were selected and washed carefully Photo by Zhang Rui

Secrets of making Wikipedia edits stick

By Charles Zhu

When I did not know who Goodman was, I searched Google and was provided in a few seconds by Wikipedia with an article about his jazz band in the 1930s. When I wanted to know when Norman Mailer, an important contemporary American writer, died, Wikipedia gave me more information than I needed to know.

This new information source is with us virtually every minute, every hour and every day. It is incredibly convenient, incredibly fast and incredibly rich.

Wikipedia reportedly has 2.2 million articles and is contributed to, enriched by and refined through mass efforts virtually the world over. Precisely because it is a mass effort and not a commercial product, it sometimes bears traces of vandalism or clumsiness.

It has flourished using the 1911 edition of the Encyclopedia Britannica, an edition which has entered public domain, as its basis. It is also soundly based on Smith's Dictionary of Greek and Roman Biography, Nuttall's 1906 Encyclopedia, Chamber's Encyclopedia, Aiken's General Biography, Rose's Biographical Dictionary and Easton's Bible Dictionary.

"The main thing about Wikipedia is that it is fun and addictive," Jimmy Wales, the site's co-founder, said. For researchers, the site is a place to look things up. For its many editors, Wikipedia is more like an online game: a community where players hang out and collaborate on something fun.

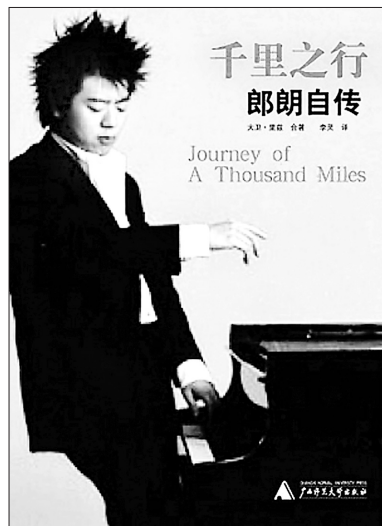
But before scratching that itch to contribute, remember than an editor must stay vigilant: you have to stand guard and look out for juvenile delinquents eager to vandalize your page. The anti-vandalism software VoAbot II is one way to revert such edits.

The site found its success in precisely the same openness that makes it vulnerable to such vandals.

However, computer experts at the University of Minnesota studied millions of Wikipedia edits and found that, despite the frequent vandalism, most of the good edits which remained unaltered were made by a group of elite contributors.

John Broughton's *Wikipedia: The Missing Manuals* (477pp, Pogue Press/O'Reilly, US \$29.99) reveals to readers the quickest path to proficiency and how to become an efficient Wikipedia contributor. The book is part of the Missing Series overseen by New York Times's electronics expert David Pogue. It aims to help users avoid beginner blunders and gets Wikipedians sounding like professionals from their first edit.

The manual tells how to become one of the elite contributors whose articles survive the longest before tumbling into oblivion. It requires a cool head to avoid being sucked into unhappy and time-consuming disputes. Wikipedians must write terse, precise prose about topics and cultivate an ability to synthesize data.



Lang Lang's first but last biography

A Journey of a Thousand Miles: My Story

By Sun Jina

Considered by the *New York Times* as the "hottest artist on the classical music planet," 25-year-old pianist Lang Lang has played sold out recitals and concerts in every major city in the world and is the first Chinese pianist engaged by the Berlin Philharmonic, the Vienna Philharmonic and all the top American orchestras.

Recently, the genius cooperated with the Guangxi Normal University Publishing Company to publish his biography, *A Journey of a Thousand Miles: My Story* (277pp, 29 yuan). The book is a valuable addition to the libraries of music lovers the world over and Lang Lang fans.

It is mainly about three contrasts: the contrast between his parents' generation and his own, the contrast between Eastern and Western education and the contrast between classic and modern culture.

Lang Lang selected several important key words to describe his upbringing: compete, win, first, dream and sacrifice.

Lang Lang's parents gave him an excellent education and raised him to have a strong will. When he was two, his parents used a half-year's salary to buy him a piano. When he entered college, his father quit his job to follow Lang Lang.

In his biography, he revealed some shocking things about his

father. When Lang Lang was late for practice, his father would force him to take massive doses of antibiotic pills. What he called "Suicide Education" would certainly not be suitable for most children, but it was under that pressure that Lang Lang's talent flourished. But when Lang Lang writes about his father today, his words are filled with appreciation.

The collection of journals begins from 2000. An English translation will be published this July and will be available for worldwide distribution.

Lang Lang said this will be his only biography, because he is too busy with his concerts and performances.



CNPIEC Bookstore book listing

The China National Publication Import and Export Corporation's (CNPIEC) bookstore recommends the following new arrivals to *Beijing Today* readers.

Angels Fall

By Nora Roberts, 464pp, Jove, 80 yuan

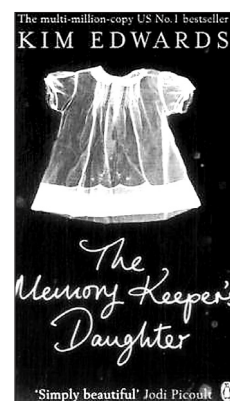
The sole survivor of a brutal crime, Reece Gilmore witnesses a couple having an argument that culminates in murder. By the time Reece finds Brody and brings him to the scene, both killer and victim are gone. Faced with a lack of evidence, the authorities in Angel's Fall find it hard to believe Reece. But when a series of menacing occur-

rences makes it clear that someone wants her out of the way, Reece must put her trust in Brody to find the murderer before it's too late.

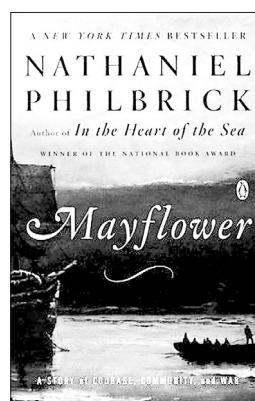
Mayflower

By Nathaniel Philbrick, 480pp, Penguin Books, 120 yuan

The author Nathaniel Philbrick depicts on an extraordinary journey to understand the truth behind the US's most sacred national myth: the voyage of the Mayflower and the settlement of Plymouth Colony. As Philbrick reveals in this electrifying new history of the Pilgrims, the story of Plymouth

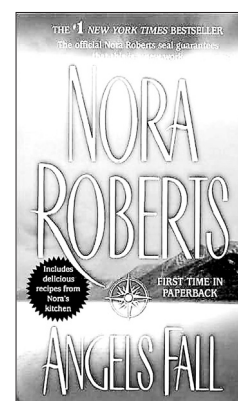


Colony was a fifty-five year epic that began in peril and ended in war. New England erupted into a bloody conflict that nearly wiped out the English colonists and natives alike. These events shaped the existing communities and the country that would grow from them.



Memory Keeper's Daughter
By Kim Edwards, 408pp, Penguin, 80 yuan

The night Dr David Henry delivers his wife's twins is a night that will haunt five lives forever. For though his son is a healthy boy, his daughter has Down's syndrome. And, in a shocking act



of betrayal whose consequences only time will reveal, he tells his wife their daughter died while secretly entrusting her care to a nurse. As grief quietly tears apart David's family, so a little girl must make her own way in the world as best she can.

(By Zhang Dongya)

New look for old legends

By Gan Tian

No matter how much one believes in horoscopes, many readers still wrinkle their noses at the same series of lines recycled ad nauseam in every listing.

But the story of the 12 zodiac animals that control human lives has been an inspiration to generations of artists. Recently, several Chinese artists have taken on the challenge of bringing a new look to the millenia-old designs.

From lines to art

Xue Juefang, 17, is a high school student. Like many girls her age, she believes that the zodiac controls her personality and love.

"I read the newspaper every day or check some horoscope Web sites to see what will happen to me the next day," she said. "Over time, I noticed that the pictures that stand for each sign all look alike!" It was one of the reasons Xue decided to create her own.

She first thought of several simple lines of each star sign. For example, two horns represent Aries, a line with two balanced triangles represents Libra and a bow and arrow stands for Sagittarius.

"Those simple lines were just too outdated. Every magazine uses some simple lines, and none are good," Xue said. She decided to paint a series of female portraits on each sign.

Her second collection of pictures was more mature. "I made two identical girls appear in one picture, for Gemini, and in others, I sketched out some women augmented with animal features," she said. A lion's mane on a female face was her sign for Leo.

"I am still not satisfied with my pictures – especially after I saw those drawn by others. I mean, our ideas were practically identical," Xue said. "Still, I am only interested in the zodiac signs. It is great system to make life more enjoyable."

Xue's drawings are popular with her classmates. Some have demanded Xue draw a picture "just for their constellation."



Beyond the animal

However, Luo Shaoxiang, 27, a professional comic illustrator, disagreed with Xue.

"I have seen Xue's pictures, but I think tacking the features of each animal sign onto the picture is not enough," he said. Luo said his pictures show "more characteristics of each sign."

"To give one example, many people believe Leos require companionship. I showed this by drawing similar dolls around the main character," he explained. His drawing of the Scorpio girl puts her in a bar to show she is a party animal. The Libra carries an apple in each hand to show her characteristic balance.

Luo said his pictures of the zodiac animals describe girls' lives. He updates the horoscope for each sign each week. "If Leos are in for bad luck in love this week, you will see it reflected in my pictures," he said.

"But don't believe in it. I myself believe only half at most. It is just for fun, and I pay more attention to the pictures themselves."

Make his own business

"Feizhi," a sophomore in Beijing Forestry University, took up an interest in comics when he was in middle school. His portraits of the zodiac signs are based on his own experiences.

In his picture of Aries, a child runs desperately to catch a carrot. He said his Aries friends all had good goals and worked very hard. Feizhi's sister and ex-girlfriend were both Tauruses. He considered them demanding and material, so his Taurus character is a girl carrying a sack of money and brandishing a whip.

He considered publishing an album of his own, and has been very critical of the many albums, which he said are made poorly, in the market.

Feizhi said he is considering cooperating with some companies to produce a series of necklaces with the shapes he designed for each of the zodiac animals.



Specially illustrated for Beijing Today, by Feizhi

Gotta love those Love-China T-shirts



By Gan Tian

China has suffered a lot recently – Western media distortion, a train crash and a horrific earthquake. However, Chinese people are always brave. A glance at the T-shirts in the streets and you will know.

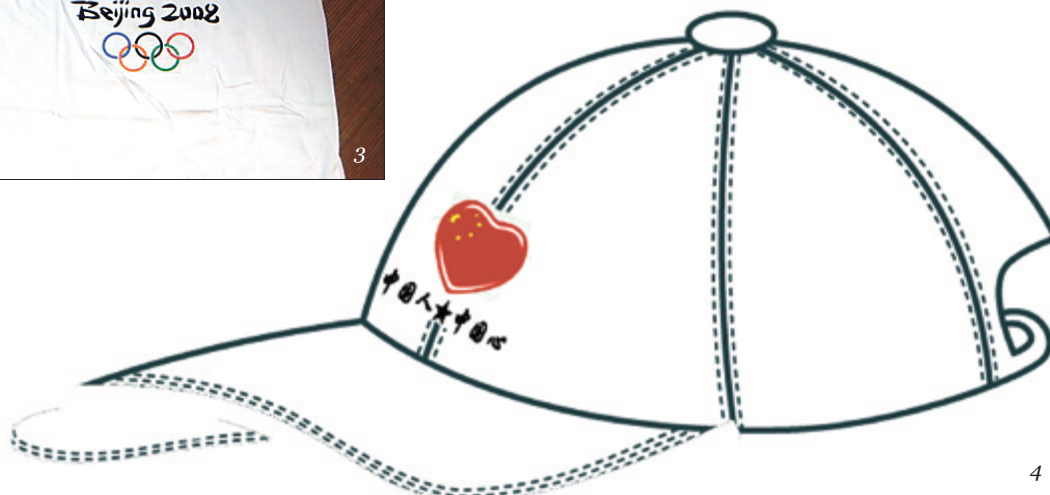
Love-China T-shirts appeared when the Olympic Torch bearer was attacked in Paris. After a series of incidents, people in the country, even all over the world, wore the shirts to show their love for China.

Called *wenhuashan* in Chinese, these T-shirts display the wearer's personality and ideas. Now with summer coming, *aiguo wenhuashan*, Love-China T-shirts, dot the streets.

Most of them are white, with red patterns. Some have a heart and a China map. The Beijing Olympic logo even appears on your chest if you choose the Olympic series. Others combine a red heart with the Chinese National Flag, with five yellow stars at the left top. A college student has designed all of the 100 Chinese surnames with the red heart, to show that "all the people in China support our country whole-heartedly." Each individual can choose his or her own surnamed T-shirt to wear and add more individualized features.

Those who are interested can visit retailers at **Huawei Building in Xidan, Wudaokou Clothing Market, the clothing markets around the Beijing Zoo and Tianyu Market near Tuanjiehu**. Buying a love-my-country T-shirt online may be more convenient. Many big online shops, for example, **taobao.com**, **eachnet.com** and **ebay.com**, provide the product at a very low price and some of the online shop owners claim that they will donate all the money to areas that suffered in the earthquake. If you are lucky, you may happen to find **some factories online** which produce these T-shirts. Order there if you need large quantities – it will save some money.

Because the patterns and colors are simple, each love-China T-shirt costs **no more than 50 yuan**, except those that have really good material and designs. Some sell for about **25 yuan online**, and if you order in large quantities, you can get as cheap as **8 to 10 yuan** each. Cheap and reasonable. So why not show off your muscles and your love towards China this summer with a T-shirt?



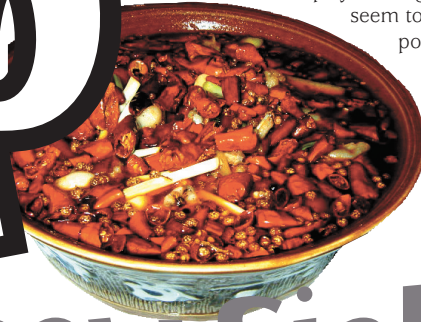
1. A T-shirt design, with 2008 Beijing Olympic logo and torch in front and five rings at back;
2. Love heart with the national flag pattern;
3. A T-shirt with 2008 Beijing Olympic logo;
4. A hat design, with love heart and national flag pattern;
5. This design is to support the Torch Relay around the world;
6. A T-shirt with I Love China pattern;
7. A T-shirt with China heart in front and a China map at back



Hop

By Gan Tian

Spicy shrimp usually dot the dishes of every Sichuan restaurant around this time of the year, but "spicy bullfrogs," or *mala niuwa* in Chinese, seem to have usurped the ever-popular shellfish. One restaurant reported averaging 300 dishes of "spicy bull frogs" ordered every day, and some restaurants have opened to exclusively serve frogs.



to the new Sichuan summer craze



Recipes



Fried frog legs

Though making your own bowl of spicy bull frogs is a tall order, *Beijing Today* was still able to scrounge up a few easy recipes. For the home chef, fried frog legs are easiest.

Ingredients:

6 frogs legs
salt and pepper
lemon juice
1 egg
cracker crumbs

Instructions:

Skin frogs legs, wash in cold water and then dry the legs. Season with salt, pepper and lemon juice.

Beat the eggs, add seasonings and dip the legs in beaten egg.

Roll legs in cracker crumbs and fry in deep fat at 200 C for two or three minutes.

Frog legs fried in bread crumbs

The other dish, frog legs fried in bread crumbs, may be more suitable to your tastes, but only if you are patient enough.

Ingredients:

25 frog legs
7 1/2 oz lard
1 tbsp oil
1 tsp salt
Pinch black pepper
1 lemon
1 bunch chopped parsley
5 oz bread crumbs
2 eggs
3 1/2 oz flour

Instructions:

Clean the legs and pickle with salt, oil, pepper, 1/2 of the parsley and a little lemon juice. Roll in a mixture of flour, egg and bread crumbs. Fry in hot lard. Garnish with the rest of the parsley, fried bread crumbs and slices of lemon.



Different croaks for different folks

Frogs are kind of strange looking, and many diners feel a little squeamish when it's time to chow down on an amphibian. But the dish's proponents cite a laundry list of benefits contained in frog flesh: from high protein to being good for your skin, even the Chinese medical experts have weighed in on the benefits of the noble frog, which they say can help neutralize excess "fire" in the body.

Frogs first appeared in Sichuan cuisine, as *chanzuiwa*, or Mouthwatering Frogs. Restaurant owners used pickled chili peppers to make it, or boiled the frog directly.

Over time, chefs realized that frogs tasted smoother than fish, and that spicy oils could quickly penetrate their skin. This inspired creation of the now popular *mala niuwa*. The dish is even spicier and numbing than the famous *shuizhuyu*, fish boiled by oil, a Sichuan specialty.

Today many restaurants provide ordinary frogs boiled in spicy sauce. A common frog weighs only 90 to 100 grams, or one third of a bull frog, but tastes smoother and softer.



Doctor-recommended sides

Two ingredients are critical if you want to enjoy frogs: the first ingredient is ginger.

Chinese doctors say that if you eat too much spicy food in summer time, you could end up with too much "fire" in your body. Ginger is capable of dispelling heat in the body, according to Chinese medical theory, and is a nice complement to the frogs' flavor. The aptly-named Ginger Frog dish swaps spicy peppers for soothing ginger.

The other ingredient is Waxberry Soup. The soup is cool and somewhat sour, and can help to put out the flames on your tongue. All sour tastes are very useful when you need to overcome potent mala flavor in a hurry.

Where to taste

Mala Youhuo

Grand Pacific Branch

Where: F7, Grand Pacific Shopping Mall, 133, Xidan Bei Dajie, Xicheng District

Tel: 8265 6688

Xizhimen Branch

Where: F5, CapitaRetail, 1, Xizhimen Wai Dajie, Xicheng District

Tel: 5830 2398

Dongzhimen Branch

Where: F3, Tianheng Plaza, Dongzhimen Wai

Dajie, Dongcheng District

Tel: 8460 8558

Chongwenmen Branch

Where: F7, SoShow, 40, Chongwenmen Wai Dajie, Chongwen District

Changhongqiao Branch

Where: F2, Tongguang Building, 12, Nongzhanguan Nan Lu, Chaoyang District

Tel: 6538 9880

5

Friday, May 30

Upcoming

Concert

Sound of Angel

Who: Declan Galbraith
Where: Beijing Exhibition Theater,
135 Xizhimen Wai Dajie, Xicheng
When: 7 pm, May 24
Admission: 180-1,280 yuan
Tel: 6835 4455

6

Saturday, May 31

Friday, May 30
Exhibition
Tale of Whaling –
Ouyang Chun Solo Exhi-
bition

Where: Han Ji Yun
Contemporary Space, A 1
Beigao, Cuigezhuang, Chaoyang

When: Daily 11 am – 7 pm, until June 15

Admission: Free

Tel: 6434 0266

I Choose My Work –
Yu Qian Painting and
Ceramic Art Solo Exhi-
bition

Where: Yu Qian Space,
D 05-0-8, 2 Jiuxianqiao
Lu, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 11 am – 6 pm, until June 20

Admission: Free

Tel: 6433 7416

When Memory Exists
Still – Bao Pei Solo
Exhibition

Where: XYZ Gallery, D
06-6-1, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu,

Chaoyang
When: Tue-Sun 11 am – 6 pm, until June 20
Admission: Free
Tel: 8459 9299

Movie

On Connait la Chanson

Where: French Culture
Center, 1/F, Guangcai
International Mansion, 18
Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang

When: 7:30 pm

Admission: 10-20 yuan

Tel: 6553 2627

Saturday, May 31
Exhibition
Visual Digestion – Joint
Exhibition

The exhibition features
Li Xiangming, Bai Ming
and Dang Zhaoyang,

Where: 3818 Cool Gal-
lery, 3818 Warehouse, 2
Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 10:30
am – 6:30 pm, until June
18

Admission: Free

Tel: 8688 2525/8456
6664

Artist in Art History

Where: SZ Art Center,
2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 10 am – 6 pm, until June 29

Admission: Free

Tel: 6435 9719

Tai Ping You Xiang –
Zeng Fanzhi Solo Exhi-
bition

Where: ShanghART
Gallery, 261 Caochangdi,
Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 11 am – 6 pm, until September 2

Admission: Free

Tel: 6432 3202

Movie

Play Time

Where: French Culture
Center, 1/F, Guangcai
International Mansion, 18
Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang

When: 7:30 pm

Admission: 10-20
yuan

Tel: 6553 2627

7

Sunday, June 1

Exhibition

Su Zihan Solo

Exhibition

Where: Bada Gallery, 3818 Ware-
house, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 1 pm – 6:30 pm,
until June 20

Admission: Free

Tel: 6433 5120

Memory or Reality Contemporary

Art Exhibition

Amelie Gallery's Memory or Real-
ity Contemporary Art Exhibition
focuses on Chinese young artists' nos-
talgic sentiments.

Where: Amelie Art Gallery, 2 Jiux-
ianqiao Lu, between Red Gate and
White Space Gallery

When: Tue-Sun 10 am – 7 pm,

until May 31
Admission: Free
Tel: 6530 7048

Where are we?

The joint exhibition features Lin
Tianmao and other 11 other artists.

Where: Beijing Center for the Arts
at Legation Quarter, 23 Qianmen
Dong Dajie, Chongwen

When: Tue-Sun 10 am – 10 pm,
until July 15

Admission: Free

Tel: 6559 8008

Movie

Irma Vep

Where: French Culture Center,
1/F, Guangcai International Mansion,
18 Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang

When: 3 pm

Admission: 10-20 yuan

Tel: 6553 2627

Stage in June

Concert

French Piano

Festival 2008

Who: David Krasumer
Where: Zhongshan Music
Hall, inside Zhongshan Park,
Dongcheng

When: 7:30 pm, June 6

Admission: 30-380 yuan

Tel: 6559 8306

Tong Vfang Xien Qi

Beijing Concert 2008

Who: Tong Vfang Xien Qi
Where: Fengtai

Sports Center, Fengti

Bei Lu, Fengtai

When: 7:30 pm, June 13

Admission: 280-1,280 yuan

Tel: 6417 7845

Sound of the Century

Who: The Chinese

National Orchestra

Where: Chinese National
Orchestra Concert Hall, 15
Xiaoying Lu, Chaoyang

When: 7:30 pm, June 23-25

Admission: 50-380 yuan

Tel: 6491 9081

The Philadelphia

Orchestra Special Concert
Who: The Philadelphia

Orchestra

Where: Minorities Cul-
tural Palace Theater, 49
Fuxingmen Nei Dajie,
Xicheng

When: 7:30 pm, June 2

Admission: 280-1,680 yuan

Tel: 6602 2530

Concert by The Pittsburgh

Youth Symphony Orchestra

Who: The Pittsburgh

Youth Symphony Orchestra

Where: Beijing Music
Hall, 1 Bei Xinhua Jie,
Xicheng

When: 7:30 pm, June 19

Admission: 60-580 yuan

Tel: 6605 7006

Opera

Sleeping Beauty

Who: The Royal English
Ballet

Where: National Grand
Theater Music Hall, on the
west side of the Great Hall
of the People

When: 7:30 pm, June 21-23

Admission: 100-1,080 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

Nutcracker

Who: The St. Petersburg
Children Ballet Theatre of
Russia

Where: National Grand
Theater Music Hall, on the
west side of the Great Hall
of the People

When: 7:30 pm, June 6-9

Admission: 60-380 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

Swan Lake

Who: Royal Swedish
Ballet

Where: National Grand
Theater Music Hall, on the
west side of the Great Hall
of the People

When: 7:30 pm, June 6-10

Admission: 100-1,080 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

Fire Bird

Who: Ballet San Jose

Where: Poly Theater, 14
Dongzhimen Nan Dajie,
Chaoyang

When: June 13

Admission: 80-680 yuan

Tel: 6501 1854

(By Li Jing)

Seven pains to take seriously

Occasionally, you may get slight pains in your head, arms or waist for an instant and tell yourself it is nothing serious. But have you ever thought that these little pains could be warning signs that something is wrong with your body? *Beijing Today* finds Leanna Skarnulis's new health cure research and has some suggestions for readers.

Headache

If you have a serious headache, get medical attention immediately. "If you have a cold, it could be a sinus headache," Sandra Fryhofer, spokeswoman for the American College of Physicians said. "But you could have a brain hemorrhage or even a brain tumor. With any pain, unless you're sure of what caused it, get it checked out."

Chest, throat, jaw, shoulder, arm or abdominal pains

Chest pain could be the sign of a heart attack. Be aware that heart conditions typically appear as discomfort, not pain. "Don't wait for pain," cardiologist Jerome Cohen, says. "Heart patients talk about pressure. They'll clench their fist and put it over their chest or say it's like an elephant sitting on their chest."

The discomfort associated with heart disease could also be in the upper chest, throat, jaw, left shoulder, arm or abdomen, and might be accompanied by nausea. "I'm not too concerned about an 18-year-old, but if a person has unexplained, persistent discomfort and knows they're high risk, they shouldn't wait," Cohen said. "Too often, people delay because they misinterpret it as heartburn or GI (gastro-intestinal) distress. Call the doctor or get to an emergency room or physician's office. If it turns out to be something else, that's great, but don't take chances."

He told the health Web site WebMD that intermittent discomfort should be taken seriously as well. "There might be a pattern, such as discomfort related to excitement, emotional upset or exertion. For example, if you experience it when you're gardening, but it goes away when you sit down, that's angina. It's usually worse in cold or hot weather."

"A woman's discomfort signs can be more subtle," Cohen, who is director of preventive cardiology at Saint Louis University School of Medicine, said.

"Heart disease can masquerade as GI symptoms, such as bloating, GI distress or discomfort in the abdomen. It's also associated with feeling tired. Risk for heart disease increases dramatically after menopause. It kills more women than men, even though men are at higher risk at any age. Women and their physicians need to be on their toes."

Lower back or between the shoulder blades pain

"Most often it is arthritis," Brangman, a professor and chief of geriatrics at SUNY Upstate Medical University in Syracuse, New York, said. Other possibilities include a heart attack or abdominal problems. "One danger is aortic dissection, which can appear as either a nagging or sudden pain. People who are at risk have conditions that can change the integrity of the vessel wall. These would include high blood pressure, a history of circulation problems, smoking, and diabetes."

Abdominal pain

Still have your appendix? Don't flirt with the possibility of a rupture. Gall bladder and pancreas problems, stomach ulcers and intestinal blockages are some other possible causes of abdominal pain that need attention.

Calf pain

One of the lesser known dangers is deep vein thrombosis (DVT), a blood clot that can occur in the leg's deep veins. It affects 2 million Americans a year, and it can be life-threatening. "The danger is that a piece of the clot could break loose and cause pulmonary embolism (a clot in the lungs), which could be fatal," Sandra Fryhofer, said. Cancer, obesity, immobility due to prolonged bed rest or long-distance travel, pregnancy and advanced age are among the risk factors.

"Sometimes there's just swelling without pain," Brangman said. "If you have swelling and pain in your calf muscles, see a doctor immediately."

Burning feet or legs

Nearly one-third of the 20 million Americans who have diabetes are undiagnosed, according to the American Diabetes Association. "In some people who don't know they have diabetes, peripheral neuropathy could be one of the first signs," Brangman said. "It's a burning or pins-and-needles sensation in the feet or legs that can indicate nerve damage."

Vague, combined, or medically unexplained pains

"Various painful, physical symptoms are common in depression," psychiatrist Thomas Wise, said. "Patients will have vague complaints of headaches, abdominal pain or limb pain, sometimes combined."

Because the pain might be chronic and not terribly debilitating, depressed people, their families, and health care professionals might dismiss the symptoms. "Furthermore, the more depressed you are, the more difficulty you have describing your feelings," Wise said, who is the psychiatry department chairman at Inova Fairfax Hospital in Fairfax, Va. "All of this can lead the clinician astray."

Other symptoms must be present before a diagnosis of depression can be made. "Get help when you've lost interest in activities, you're unable to work or think effectively, and you can't get along with people," he said. "And don't suffer silently when you're hurting."

The doctor adds there's more to depression than deterioration in the quality of life. "It has to be treated aggressively before it causes structural changes in the brain."

(By Gan Tian)

CFP Photo

Follow the Pop Art master's footprints

Robert Milton Ernest Rauschenberg, 82, an American artist who came to prominence in the 1950s transition from Abstract Expressionism to Pop Art, died of heart failure on May 12 at his home on Captiva Island, Florida.

A painter, photographer, printmaker, choreographer, onstage performer, set designer and, in later years, even a composer, Rauschenberg influenced China's contemporary artists during the "1985 New Wave" art movement: the vigorous modernist art movement of two decades past.



Untitled, 1955



Black Mountain College Museum and Arts Center



Port Arthur is home to three major refineries.

Port Arthur, Texas: his birthplace

Milton Ernest Rauschenberg was born October 22, 1925, in Port Arthur, Texas, a small refinery town where "it was very easy to grow up without ever seeing a painting," he said. In adulthood he renamed himself Robert.

Port Arthur is located 90 miles east of Houston on the gulf coast of Texas. The Rainbow Bridge across the Neches River connects Port Arthur to Bridge City.

Port Arthur is the namesake of Arthur E. Stilwell. He envisioned Port Arthur as a resort, as a port city and as the terminus of the railroad he would eventually build linking Port Arthur to Kansas City. It was once the center of the largest oil refinery network in the world.

The city today is home to three major refineries and remains the important terminus of the Kansas City Southern rail-

road. The town of a mere one thousand souls in 1900 has grown to almost 60,000 supported by a diverse economy.

Besides contemporary art, Port Arthur also produced singing legend Janis Joplin and Dallas Cowboys coach Jimmy Johnson. Currently, Port Arthur's profile has risen on the hip-hop scene with the emergence of the rap group UGK and influential hip hop producer DJ Premier. Both members of UGK, Bun B and the late Pimp C, are from Port Arthur and often refer to their hometown in their songs.

Black Mountain College, North Carolina: artistic influence

His painting instructor at Black Mountain was the renowned Bauhaus figure Josef Albers, whose strict dis-

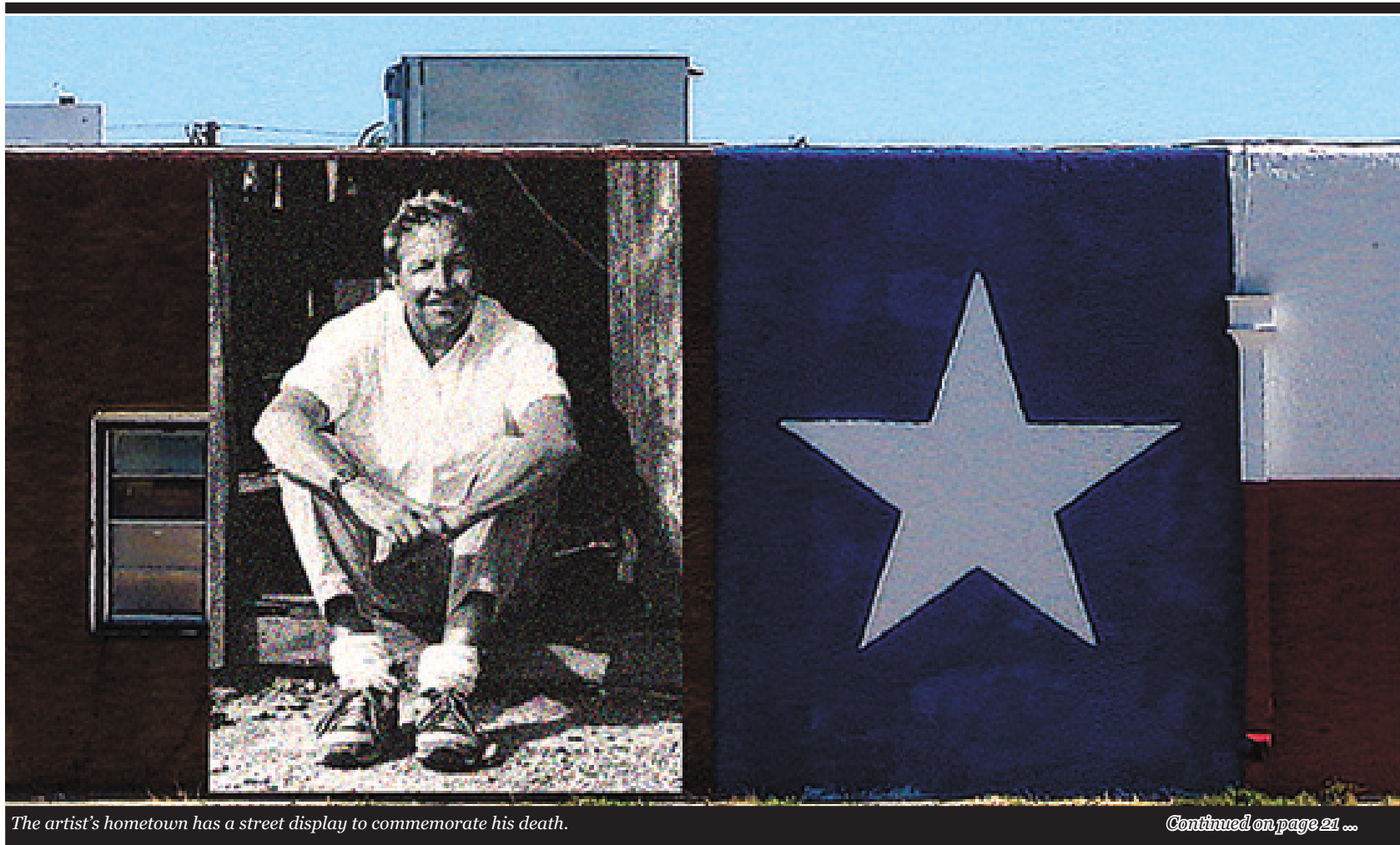
cipline and sense of method inspired Rauschenberg, as he once said, to do "exactly the reverse" of what Albers taught him.

Black Mountain College was established in 1933 as an independent, coed, four-year college and originally was located in buildings leased from the Blue Ridge Assembly, near Black Mountain, North Carolina. In 1941 the college was moved nearby to property purchased by the college, and it remained at this location until it closed in 1956.

Black Mountain College was created as an experiment of "education in a democracy," with the idea that the creative arts and practical responsibilities are equal in importance to the development of the intellect. The emphasis was that learning and living are intimately connected. Drama, music and the fine arts were regarded as an integral part of college life. No student held a job

through college, but everyone, faculty and students alike, participated in work on the farm operated by the college, constructed buildings, did maintenance work and served meals. Many classes were held at night and none were scheduled in the afternoons in order to allow time for work on the campus. There was no organized athletic program, as it was thought there should be no sharp distinction between work and play.

Founded in 1993 by Mary Holden, the Black Mountain College Museum and Arts Center aims to honor and pay tribute to the spirit and history of Black Mountain College and to acknowledge the College's role as a forerunner in progressive, interdisciplinary education with a focus on the arts. Through exhibitions, publications, lectures, films, seminars and oral history interviews the Black Mountain College Museum and Arts Center is committed to spreading awareness of the college and its legacy.



The artist's hometown has a street display to commemorate his death.

Continued on page 21 ...



... continued from page 20

The street near the Whitechapel Art Gallery

Betty Parsons Gallery, New York: first solo exhibition

While taking classes at the Art Students League, New York, from 1949 to 1951, Rauschenberg was offered his first solo exhibition at the Betty Parsons Gallery. Some of the works from this period included blueprints, monochromatic white paintings and black paintings.

Betty Parsons (1900 - 1982) was an American artist and art gallery owner known for her early promotion of abstract expressionism.

Parsons ran the Wakefield Gallery and Bookshop in New York from 1940 until 1944 and in 1946 opened the Betty Parsons Gallery, which specialized in Abstract Expressionism, a genre predominantly associated with white heterosexual males. At one time her gallery represented the work of Ellsworth Kelly, Barnett Newman, Jackson Pollock, Clyfford Still and Mark Rothko. Seven of these "Giants" left Parsons in 1951 when she would not focus exclusively on them.

Increasingly, she began to show more of her "alternative" artists such as Swiss lesbian abstract expressionist Sonja Sekula (1918-1963), whom Parsons represented from 1948 until 1957.

She was open about her bisexual

affairs in the 1920s and 1930s, but she withdrew to the closet after World War II, just as she achieved particular prominence as a dealer. Years later, speaking to her biographer, Parsons explained the need to disavow her lesbianism: "You see, they hate you if you are different; everyone hates you and they will destroy you. I had seen enough of that. I didn't want to be destroyed."

Whitechapel Art Gallery, London: cementing his fame

In 1964 he toured Europe and Asia with the Merce Cunningham Dance Company, the same year he exhibited at the Whitechapel Art Gallery in London and the Venice Biennale as the US representative. The Sunday Telegraph in London hailed him as "the most important American artist since Jackson Pollock."

Occupying 80-82 Whitechapel High Street is the Whitechapel Gallery. Originally named the East End Gallery, the Whitechapel Gallery was established by a local Vicar Canon Samuel Barnett of St. Jude's and opened its doors to the public in 1901. The Gallery was designed by Charles Harrison Townsend, an architect associated with the Arts and Crafts movement.

Whitechapel Gallery became one of the first publicly-funded galleries in

London. The Whitechapel Gallery is still heavily involved with education and local projects, concentrating on the local area's Asian community in recent years. The Gallery underwent a major renovation in 1986 and there are plans to further upgrade the facility in the future.

It has never had a permanent collection but favors temporary exhibitions. Pablo Picasso and Jackson Pollock have both exhibited at the gallery. Whitechapel is also recognized as one of the venues responsible for launching David Hockney and the Pop Art movement. The Whitechapel Gallery held the "This is Tomorrow" exhibition in 1956. It also hosts regular workshops and lectures. Every other year, the Whitechapel Gallery hosts the Whitechapel Open – a unique event that showcases artists exclusively from the East End of London.

Captiva Island, Florida: last residence

Rauschenberg established a permanent residence and studio in Captiva, Florida, in 1970. When he was not traveling in later years, he was on Captiva Island, living at first in a modest beach house and working out of a small studio.

Captiva Island is an island in Lee County, southwest Florida, located just offshore in the Gulf of Mexico. Originally part of neighboring Sanibel Island to the

southeast, it was likely severed when a hurricane's storm surge washed away a new channel, called Blind Pass, which has now been filled in with sand. Like Sanibel, Captiva is a barrier island to Pine Island (to the east of Captiva and north of Sanibel), however it is much narrower. The only automobile access to Captiva is via the Sanibel Causeway and Sanibel-Captiva Road.

North Captiva Island, or Upper Captiva, is another island, in turn severed from Captiva in a 1921 hurricane, creating Redfish Pass. North Captiva has power from lines that originate on the north end of Captiva, and is privately owned. With about 300 homes built and 300 vacant lots, the island is about half-way built out. Since the island can be accessed by boat or small plane only, North Captiva real estate values are generally lower than on Captiva.

According to local folklore, Captiva got its name because the pirate captain José Gaspar (Gasparilla) held his female prisoners on the island for ransom or worse. Captiva is the part-time home of many famous people and the full-time home of world-renowned artist Robert Rauschenberg. South Seas Island Resort and Yacht Harbor, a 133-hectare resort, is on the northern two miles of Captiva Island.

(By He Jianwei)



Robert Rauschenberg lived in a modest beach house and worked out of a small studio on Captiva Island.

Rich education, poor communication

By Eugene Rosenberg

While India's call centers receive the majority of Western press coverage regarding IT outsourcing, China quietly provides rich soil for technology services of a different sort. Every year, thousands of university graduates with freshly-minted bachelor's degrees are recruited to code, test and manage the latest builds from Microsoft, Autodesk, Oracle and countless other technology firms all over the country. While these raw recruits have the technical skills to program the next generation of software, they also require the skill to communicate their solutions effectively. Often these left-brain specialists need some right-brain approaches to getting their messages understood and accepted across the development chain.

China's university system provides a steady stream of qualified engineers to fill vacancies in the nation's expanding IT sector. Through rigorous standards for entry and the demanding regimen students must endure, science graduates emerge from university armed with a wealth of experience and insight long before they join the workforce. This educational model provides graduates with the empirical knowledge and logical intuition that makes them very attractive to outsourcing firms. However, once these graduates arrive at the offices of multinational technology companies, their specialized education is often frustrated by the communicative demands of the global marketplace.

No matter the depths of their programming expertise, these engineers must also express their ideas coherently to their colleagues working in other corporate offices around the world. Sadly, this often proves a most difficult task for these new employees as their academic concentrations forced their language ability to falter over time. Hence, it becomes incumbent on their new employers to bring their communication abilities up to par, particularly writing skills. Business writing training and the easy applicable solutions it offers presents the most effective means of combating this obstacle to international communication.

Through a small investment in corporate training, human resource departments can provide their newest employees with the foundations of modern business writing in real world situations. By simply employing a few simple writing structures, employees emerge from training sessions composing elegant and efficient documents with confidence and clarity. More importantly, they can now express their challenges and contributions effectively, improving their productivity and adding value to their office throughout the development chain.

Perhaps the acronym PDA best summarizes the most efficient structure for standard email correspondence with foreign co-workers. Rather than referencing an electronic organizer, this mnemonic device refers to Purpose, Detail and Action, which serve as the three principle components of a written directive. It reminds writers to intro-

"Rather than referencing an electronic organizer, this mnemonic device refers to Purpose, Detail and Action, which serve as the three principle components of a written directive."

duce the Purpose of their communication first and establish a goal, to develop the background of the situation by illustrating the key Details of the situation, and to close by introducing the Action required by the recipient of the message. This provides logically-minded staff with a simple equation for keeping their emails organized and solution oriented.

In practice, a quality control engineer in Beijing writes to his Silicon Valley development team about a bug discovery in recent testing. The correspondence would begin by introducing the bug, followed by a specific description of the situation where the problem emerged, and closing with a clear action plan to resolve the matter in California. Management, regardless of location, will generally act immediately upon receiving such a well-organized and solution-driven email. This in turn improves employees' productivity and the overall value of the office in the eyes of headquarters. Conversely, poorly-



structured and inactive writing styles will lead to repetitive correspondence, confusion and a loss of confidence on both sides of the conversation.

Employing this simple approach ensures that written communication improves literally the day after employee training, as the new recruits return to work armed with a simple equation for expressing their ideas and solving their problems in writing. This guarantees multinational companies achieve the greatest return on investment from their Chinese staff. Ultimately, this balances the organization as a whole and strengthens China's critical link in the global development chain.

Eugene Rosenberg is a seminar trainer and copy editor

Outdoors

Pingyao – raise the red lanterns

Pingyao, a 2,700-year-old city, has been the center of China's modern banking system since 1825, however with the collapse of the Qing Dynasty and transference of banking and finances, the city has stalled, eliminating it from development and character preservation. Nearby is Wangs Great Courtyard, known as the "Forbidden City of Shanxi."

When: go to Pingyao by air or train on the evening of May 23 and fly back on May 25

Cost: 2,600 yuan (go by train and return by air), 3,350 yuan (a round trip by air)

Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041 (reservations are essential)

Jiankou to Mutianyu Great Wall Walk

Jiankou is home to some of the most dramatic stretches of the Great Wall. The hike begins from Jiankou and ends

up at Mutianyu.

Where: Meet on the ground floor of Starbucks (Jiangtai Lu, Lido Holiday Inn)

When: 8:30 am – 5:30 pm, May 24

Cost: 250 yuan

Tel: 13910025516 (reservations are essential)



Hotel



The Westin Beijing, Financial Street recognized as "Best Meetings and Convention Hotel in Beijing"

The Westin Beijing, Financial Street was honored as the "Best Meetings and Convention Hotel in Beijing" at the 2008 inaugural TTG China Travel Awards.

The Westin Beijing, Financial Street was awarded for its extensive meeting and convention capabilities, as well as its comprehensive onsite services and impeccable facilities in Beijing.

Over 300 of China's most influential industry professionals attended the gala event, now set to be an annual affair in which 39 of the best travel and trade organizations in China were recognized.

Treating you to luxury

Sofitel is making a value-added room promotion. If you book a Luxury Room, you will be upgraded to Club Sofitel. If you book a Luxury Room Club Sofitel, you will be treated to a spacious Sofitel Suite. Daily buffet breakfast and other benefits in Club Sofitel are offered. The promotion is subject to availability.

When: May 1 – July 31

Tel: 8599 6666, 400 818 2688

(advance reservation is required)

Beijing Charity Gala

The Commonwealth Society in Beijing is a non-profit association mainly devoted to organizing fund raising activities to devote to charities in China. Funds raised are donated to a needy charity or charities in China. To buy tickets for the charity gala and/or give donations please call the Embassy of Malta and ask for Julie.

Where: China World Hotel Ballroom, 1 Jianguomen Wai Dajie

When: 6:30 pm, June 6

Admission: 350 yuan (entrance), 50 yuan (raffle)

Tel: 6532 3114

(By Li Jing)

Nightlife

The disco night story

The best sounds of 80s disco bring back the golden era of that dance craze. As another branch of the Solid Vodka party tree, expect the full disco party vibe, complete with platform shoes and mirrored balls, to explode on the dance floor at this retro night classic.

Where: Lan Club, 4/f, LG

Twin Towers, 12B Jianguomen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang

When: 11 am – 3 pm, May 24

Tel: 5109 6012

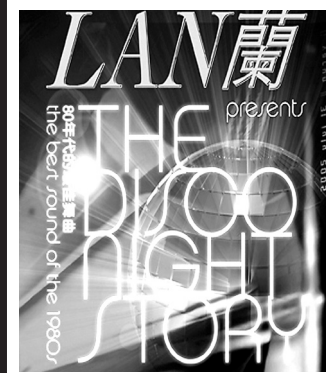
YEN four year anniversary

Where: Star Live, F/3, Tangguo Building, Yonghegongqiao Bei, Chaoyang

When: 8:30 pm, May 17

Admission: 60 yuan (door), 50 yuan (advance)

Tel: 6425 5677



If you have any info for this page, please send it to lixiaojing@ynet.com

Chinglish story

This column focuses on Chinglish mistakes in our daily life. If you have any experiences to share, send them to Gan Tian at gantian@ynet.com.

Sugar: How sweet it is!

By Charles Zhu

On a bright late spring day, we drove to an outlying farm in the remote woods of New England. The Canadian maple trees blanketed the valley in western Massachusetts.

A professor who accompanied us seemed to be well-versed with the tradition of maple sugaring. He told us that the process of making maple syrup is an age-old tradition of the North American Indians, who used it both as a food and medicine. They would make incisions into trees with their tools and use birch bark cuttings to collect the sap. The sap would be condensed into syrup by evaporating the excess water using one of two methods: plunging hot stones into the sap or by allowing it to freeze in the cool night air.

Maple syrup is a good sweetener containing an excellent source of manganese and zinc, and is therefore good for our health.

The sap was reduced to sugar when heated further in a smaller kettle or pail. Thick syrup for hard sugar was scooped before it granulated from the final boiling kettle and poured onto ice or snow to solidify making a very tasty toffee.

The professor told us that for the native Indians, this was an important year-round food, eaten with grains, fish, fruits and vegetables, and with dried berries. In summer, it was dissolved in water as a cooling drink. In winter, it was stirred into various root, leaf and bark teas.

As he was a Canadian, he said in Canada, the white birch tree can be tapped for sap, too.

The sugar farmer offered maple sugar right on the spot for visitors who wished to have a taste.

We all sat before the long table and enjoyed the maple sugar, fresh and sweet and tasty. People began to sing an old Indian song, "Maple sugar, only satisfies me, in spring!"

However, I noticed the professor who sat beside me did not try any of the maple sugar treat though he had such abundant knowledge of maple sugaring and enjoyed the outing just as every one of us had.



CFP Photo

I asked him, "Why don't you try some? It's just as wonderful as you said."

He replied, "I can't. I have sugar."

He had sugar? Did he mean that he had brought along sugar with him when we had come to visit a sugar-producing country? I thought he was simply being silly.

I was all the more bewildered when we all began to hike up a small hill and he said he would not go as he had sugar.

What did the fact that he had sugar have to do with mountain climbing?

"I see why you are so confused. When I say I have 'sugar,' it means that I suffer from sugar diabetes. It's a colloquial expression for the disease in American daily conversation."

I became flushed with embarrassment and reproached myself for questioning his behavior, based on my misunderstanding of the word.

Now I was a wiser man and would not make the same mistake again when in the company of a person suffering from sugar diabetes.

Blacklist

Beijing Today has come up with Blacklist, a new column of words or phrases commonly misused by Chinese speakers. If you're planning to be an English teacher, reporter or employee of a multinational company, then this page is your new best friend. Watch it for each week.

Local professor: Zhu Shida

1. I have not practiced it in years.

For this sentence in the present perfect tense, the preposition indicating the duration of time must invariably be "for," since it is giving you an idea of duration. So, this sentence should be: "I have not practiced it for years." Another example, "I have not seen you for five years." You would not say: "I have not seen you in five years."

2. History respects he who respects history.

This might be all right in oral American English, however, strictly speaking in grammatical terms, it is wrong. As the verb "respect" is a transitive verb, it takes the objective form of the personal pronoun "him." So, it should be: "History respects him who respects history." But this is idiomatically awkward. The better way to express the idea would be: "History respects the man who respects history." This will rouse the fury of the feminists, so, the safest and yet idiomatic way to write this sentence would be: "History respects those who respect history."

3. The kiln remain is the birthplace of chinaware.

Can you discern what is wrong with this sentence? The problem lies in the usage of the noun "remain." When it means what is left, it is invariably "remains," not "remain." The predicate takes the plural form. For example, "The remains of the meal are fed to the dog." When it means a dead body, you have this example: "The remains of Washington were buried at Mount Vernon."

Native Speaker: Joe Edwards

1. I have not practiced it in years.

Can you spot the grammatical glitch in this sentence? It is not very obvious because a lot of us accept this mistake without a second thought. It has become so commonplace. When we are describing a length of time the word "in" must be left out and replaced with "for." The sentence should read, "I have not practiced it for years." In this particular case, please leave the "in" out.

2. History respects he who respects history.

We all have great respect for English speakers who respect and use proper grammar, as well. The sentence loses a little respect in its structure. The verbs "respects" requires an object and the pronoun "he" doesn't do the job since it is famous for its role as a subject. What you need here is "him." The sentence now reads, "History respects him who respects history." But, somewhat like a nudist dressing himself down onto a wicker chair, this does not sit well and sounds slightly odd to the ear. It would be best to rewrite the idea completely in this form and exercise political correctness as well by saying, "History respects those (a person) who respect (s) history."

3. The kiln remain is the birthplace of chinaware.

When one speaks of what is left over after something has left, for example, a human, the word "remain" cannot remain. Similarly, in the example sentence, what's left of the kiln cannot be referred to as a "remain," it must be "remains" to be correct. The famous film starring Anthony Hopkins, *The Remains of the Day*, probably would not have done as well if titled, *The Remain of the Day*. The Queen probably would have snatched away his knight-hood if that had occurred. Thank goodness the film producers were grammatically gifted.

This column aims to identify Chinglish in public areas. If you see any Chinglish signs, please take a picture and send it to gantian@ynet.com together with your name and address.

When Chinglish gets lethal

By Derrick Sobodash

Emergency signs are not somewhere there should be any confusion. Many people in town have seen Chinese "Exit" signs, variously written as "Way out" or "Safety Exit." While not the best examples, the several seconds of delay as your mind reboots in Chinglish mode are dangerous.

The same can be true of emergency instructions, like this evacuation notice from the fire department. This column will skip the small English lettering on the bottom of the sign, but readers can trust that it is even more incoherent. The large letters at the top read, "Fire Please remain calm and rational direction, the rapid withdrawal!"

This is a case of a nice, clear sentence being snipped up, tossed in a bag and shaken out on the table in a new order.

The first block of the sentence, which somehow was condensed to "Fire," says, "In the event of a fire." The following



"remain calm and rational direction" is actually two separate instructions, "remain calm and proceed in a rational direction." What is a rational direction? Probably anywhere but directly into the fire.

The least understandable part of the sign is its ending, "the rapid withdrawal!" This should be something closer to "rapidly withdraw," or better yet, "exit quickly."

It needs a verb, not a noun.

When seconds matter, readers should not be forced to rearrange a mess like this in their heads. A more common wording that would be consistent with similar signs in English would be, "In case of fire, remain calm and proceed quickly to the nearest exit."

Photo by Liu Chenlu



THE FORBIDDEN KINGDOM [2008]



Movie of the week

Based on the Chinese legend of the *Monkey King*, an American teen discovers the king's legendary staff in a pawn shop and he is transported back in time to ancient China, where he joins a crew of warriors fighting to free the imprisoned king. This film contains incredible action scenes between Lu Yan (Jackie Chan) and the Monkey King (Jet Li) and is the highlight of the movie. The film itself has a solid storyline that isn't that hard to follow and can be a little cheesy at times, but apart from that, this movie is awesome.

Synopsis

While hunting down bootleg kung fu DVDs in a Chinatown pawnshop, Jason makes an extraordinary discovery that sends him hurtling back in time to ancient China. There, he is charged with a monumental task: he must free the fabled warrior the Monkey King, who has been imprisoned by the evil Jade Warlord.

Scene 1

Jason: That's a Northern Temple style Bold Staff. Same kind the 13 monks used to save the Tang Emperor. I have seen it before. That exact one. I had dreams about it.

Mr. Hop: You know why? You watch too much Hong Kong movies. Come, come on. I will give you five awesome Bruce Lee movies. For a very 'sick' price⁽¹⁾.

Jason: You are the man⁽²⁾, Hop.

Scene 2

Lupo: What do we have here?

Jason: Just some bootlegs. No big deal⁽³⁾.

Lupo: Enter the dragon. The bride with white hair.

Jason: Yes, it's actually very good.

Girl: Come on, let him go.

Lupo: He ain't a dog.

Girl: He knows kung fu.

Lupo: What? You think you are Chinese? You hanging out with that Chinese with a sitar. What's up with you? Let's see some moves⁽⁴⁾. Come on, come on. Let's see some kung fu. Kung fu master. Huh?

Scene 3

Jason: Is that like a worm-hole⁽⁵⁾ or something?

Lu Yan: No, it means

you're either a Zen Master⁽⁶⁾... or you're carrying something very special.

Jason: This? – Was in a pawn shop waiting for a man to pick it up, and return it to its rightful owner⁽⁷⁾.

Jason: What?

Lu Yan: It has long been fore-told, that a seeker will come.

Scene 4

Voiceover: Once every 500 years, the Jade Emperor hosts the Peach Banquet. It is here that the Heavenly Ministers gather to celebrate their longevity and drink the elixir⁽⁸⁾ of immortality. Into the banquet, the Monkey King crashed uninvited. The Jade Emperor was enchanted⁽⁹⁾ by the Monkey King. But the Jade Warlord was not amused. As Master of the Army, the Warlord demanded the Monkey King bow down to him.

The emperor: He's a bit unrefined, that's all. Give the naughty monkey a title and let him go.

Voiceover: Satisfied all was well in Heaven and Earth. The Supreme Emperor left to begin his 500 years meditation. Leaving the Jade Warlord in charge by mandate⁽¹⁰⁾ of Heaven.

Scene 5

Jason: I can't free the Monkey King. I got to get home.

Lu Yan: Innkeeper, more wine.

Jason: Don't you think you had one too many?

Lu Yan: Wine is my inspiration⁽¹¹⁾. In some parts⁽¹²⁾, I'm known as a poet. Cheers! In other parts, I am known as the beggar.

Scene 6

Lu Yan: Bounty hunters⁽¹³⁾ trying to stop her from reaching the Five Elements Mountain. I suggest you keep riding west.

And only stop to water your horses.

Jason: You are not coming?

Lu Yan: The journey to Five Elements Mountain, crosses barrens and desserts, unspeakable dangers. Worst of all, no wine.

Golden Sparrow: His elixir. Every Immortal has one.

Lu Yan: I am very sorry. Without wine I will perish⁽¹⁴⁾. You must understand this.

Jason: No. You must understand this. This is insane!

Lu Yan: Do you wish to get home?

Jason: Yes.

Lu Yan: Then listen well. If you die here, you will be found dead in the world you left behind⁽¹⁵⁾. Do you understand? My jug is getting low. I must say goodbye. Bye-bye.

Jason: Lu ... Wait!

Vocabulary

- Sick price:** a 'sick' price here means a really cheap price.
- You are the man:** Slang meaning that someone is great at doing something mainly for you.
- No big deal:** not very important.
- Let's see some moves:** A challenge from someone. In this case it means give me an example of your great *Kung Fu* skills.
- Worm-hole:** In physics, a wormhole is a hypothetical topological feature of space that is basically a 'shortcut' through space and time.
- Zen Master:** or Zen teacher, is an umbrella title which refers to an individual who teaches Zen Buddhism to others, and it may be used to refer to individuals hailing from any number of countries and traditions.

- Rightful owner:** an owner having a legally established claim.
- Elixir:** a magical or medicinal potion.
- Enchanted:** influenced by charms or incantations.
- By mandate:** put into being by an authoritative command like a court order, for example.
- Inspiration:** the process of being inspired by someone or something
- In some parts:** in some areas of the world; refers to location
- Bounty hunters:** ones who track down and capture outlaws for whom a reward is offered
- Perish:** to die.
- Leave behind:** not take along, abandon

(By Huang Weina)

